



Ghost Towns of Livingston County, Illinois

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Merriam Webster Dictionary:

Ghost Town: a once-flourishing town wholly or nearly deserted usually as a result of the exhaustion of some natural resource

Definition for This Presentation.....

- A town that was started but never was successful over the long-term and few or no inhabitants are left.
- In Livingston County, many towns were started, but eventually abandoned after the railroad failed to go through the town



How to find all the ghost towns in Livingston County?

- See if list of all towns that had discontinued post offices.
- Conduct local newspaper searches on ghost town stories.
- Consult old maps of Livingston County
- Consult old history books
- Ask for ghost town names on Facebook



Post Offices

- Found web site that lists almost all post offices in Livingston County

THE DIGITIZED
US POSTAL BULLETINS and PL&Rs
1880 - 2013

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Michael Eastick & Associates

List of US Post Offices

State Name Post Office County

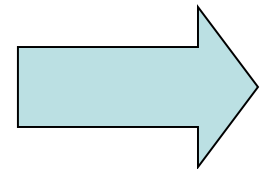
Enter text in search boxes then click on Search.

When searching State use full State name.

We would like to thank Postal History Dealer Jim Forte for making this list available to collectors.
He makes no claim to the accuracy of this list which is a work in progress.

Visit Jim at www.postalhistory.com

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Post Offices

State Name	Post Office	County	Dates
Illinois	Ancona Rur. Sta.	Livingston	?-Date
Illinois	Ancona	Livingston	?-1991
Illinois	Yorkville	Livingston	1876-1879
Illinois	Wilson	Livingston	1883-1905
Illinois	Wing	Livingston	1881-DPO
Illinois	Waldo	Livingston	~~1900-1903~~
Illinois	Strawn	Livingston	1873-Date

DPO =
Discontinued
Post Office?

Post office
still in
service.

- This web site shows a total of 68 towns that had a post office.



Post Offices

No.	State Name	Post Office	County	Dates
1	Illinois	Ancona Rur. Sta.	Livingston	?-Date
2	Illinois	Blackstone	Livingston	1870-Date
3	Illinois	Campus	Livingston	1880-Date
4	Illinois	Chatsworth	Livingston	1859-Date
5	Illinois	Cornell	Livingston	1871-Date
6	Illinois	Cullom	Livingston	1878-Date
7	Illinois	Dwight	Livingston	1854-Date
8	Illinois	Emington	Livingston	1880-Date
9	Illinois	Fairbury	Livingston	1866-Date
10	Illinois	Flanagan	Livingston	1882-Date
11	Illinois	Forrest	Livingston	1868-Date
12	Illinois	Graymont	Livingston	1871/Date
13	Illinois	Long Point	Livingston	1847-Date
14	Illinois	Manville	Livingston	1883-Date
15	Illinois	Odell	Livingston	1855-Date
16	Illinois	Pontiac	Livingston	1837-Date
17	Illinois	Saunemin	Livingston	1869-Date
18	Illinois	Strawn	Livingston	1873-Date

- These 18 towns still have post offices.
- They would not be considered ghost towns since they are large enough to have a post office.
- So, 68 total towns minus 18 with post offices = 50 ghost towns!
- More than 50 because post office web site not complete.
- Some towns never got big enough to have a post office



Post Offices

- Who are the 50 towns that lost their post office from web site?

No.	Post Office	Dates
1	Amity	1858-1872
2	Ancona	?-1991
3	Angona	1856-1962?
4	Avoca	1838-1872
5	Billing's Grove	1850-1854
6	Budd	1883-1925
7	Cardiff	1899-1919
8	Cayuga	1857-1931?
9	Charlotte	1880-1931?
10	Coalville	1865-1892

No.	Post Office	Dates
11	Collins	1872-1883
12	Eyler	1880-1919
13	Fairburgh	1858-1866
14	Forrest Station	1860-1868
15	Germanville	1893-1894
16	Glenwood Mils	1860-1870
17	Griswold	1880-1913
18	Healey	1884-1901
19	Hickory Point	1856-1859
20	Huber	1880-1880



Post Offices

•Who are the 50 towns that lost their post office from web site?

No.	Post Office	Dates
21	Indian Grove	1846-1859
22	Lodemia	1877-1903
23	Loretto	1892-1902
24	McClary	1875-1884
25	McDowell	1872-1918
26	Missal	1886-1921
27	Moon's Point	1847-1850
28	Nebraska	1879-1882
29	Nevada	1870-1921
30	New Michigan	1849-1872

No.	Post Office	Dates
31	Norman	1875-1882
32	Oak Dale	1864-1871
33	Ocoya	1860-1922
34	Potosi	1868-1880
35	Reading	1850-1921
36	Risk	1881-1918
37	Roaelthe	1880-1886
38	Rooks Creek	1847-1880
39	Rookside	1896-1898
40	Rowe	1872-1919



Post Offices

- Who are the 50 towns that lost their post office from web site?

No.	Post Office	Dates
41	Rugby	1880-1918
42	Scovel	1886-1905
43	Smithdale	1870-1901
44	Sullivan Centre	1869-1879
45	Sunbury	1840-1873
46	Swygert	1880-1916
47	Waldo	1900-1903
48	Wilson	1883-1905
49	Wing	1881-DPO
50	Yorkville	1876-1879

Newspaper Search

- 1976 Pontiac Leader ran local history stories for Bicentennial

Daily Leader, Pontiac, Ill. Page A-3 Sat., Mar. 27, 1976

Some villages were lost

The pioneers who led the westward expansion of this country were restless souls, often feeling "crowded" if another settler built a homestead within five or 10 miles. Sometimes they stayed long enough to begin little villages, before moving to other parts of the county, state or the country.

Some of the villages on the plat books of Livingston County no longer exist. Some, which at first showed promising growth, have dwindled to the point of containing only one or two residences and, perhaps, a grain elevator.

The railroad is responsible for the birth and death of many county communities. The town of Reading, for instance, is the second oldest village platted in the county. At one time it contained three hotels, two doctors, stores, a coal business and blacksmith shop. The town grew rapidly until the railroads, built in other parts of the county, drew business and capital away. The towns of Avoca and New Michigan suffered the same fate.

On the other hand, the railroad established several communities by locating switches for shipping points at many locations. Some of these towns blossomed and grew, others have actually shrunk in size as nearby large communities have become more attractive.

Some of these communities include Eylar, Griswold and Scovel on the Kankakee and Minonk branch of the Illinois Central Railroad. Eylar and Griswold once reported populations of 30 persons each. Blair, or Wilson on some maps, had a population of more than 50 inhabitants. Located six miles east of Dwight, it also boasted a general store, blacksmith shop, and grain elevator.

Budd was a station and post office on the Indiana, Illinois and Iowa Railroad and Champlin, located north of Fairbury, was never much more than a shipping point.

Other shipping points were Cereal in Chatsworth Township; Healey, on the Kankakee and Bloomington branch of the I. C. Railroad; and Rugby on the Kankakee and Minonk branch of the I. C. Railroad.

Lodemia Station on the Chicago and Paducah (later the Wabash) Railroad, is a short distance south of McDowell. In 1878 it contained a post office and a Methodist Church. Missal was a station and office on the Indiana, Illinois and Iowa Railroad in Sunbury Township. It had an elevator, general store and post office.

Cayuga, which may have been named by an early settler for Cayuga Lake or Cayuga County in New York State, once listed a population of 180 persons. It was surveyed and platted on April 10, 1855 by Thomas F. Norton. The village had a "flourishing" public school and two churches, according to an 1898 business directory.

Risk, located one mile north of Strawn, was named Pearl's Junction before the junction of the Wabash and Illinois Central Railroads at that point took on greater importance.

A population of 50 persons, a post office, telegraph office and U. S. express facility were located at Ocuya before the turn of the century.

In 1870 William Shepard laid out a town of 32 acres on the Dwight and Peoria branch of the Chicago and Alton Railroad in Newtown Township. The town was named Smithdale after an early settler. The land had not been improved, except by a depot, by 1880.

In 1878 the town of Nevada had more than 200 inhabitants with a general store, post office, blacksmith shop, restaurant, boarding house and other businesses.

Livingston County can even claim a lost railroad, along with its lost towns. In the early days of county development, the old Chicago and Paducah Railroad, later the Chicago branch of the Wabash Railroad, extended from Fairbury to Strawn. The junction of that railroad with the T.P. & W. at Fairbury, however, persuaded the railroaders to take up the track between Fairbury and Strawn. This short stretch of railroad supported two stations and budding communities. South of Fairbury was Murphy Station, also recorded as McClary post office. It was mostly used as a shipping point, but also contained the post office, a small store and a grain dealer.

South of Murphy Station was Norman, which had, at one time, a store, post office, blacksmith shop and wagon shop. The post office there was established in 1875.

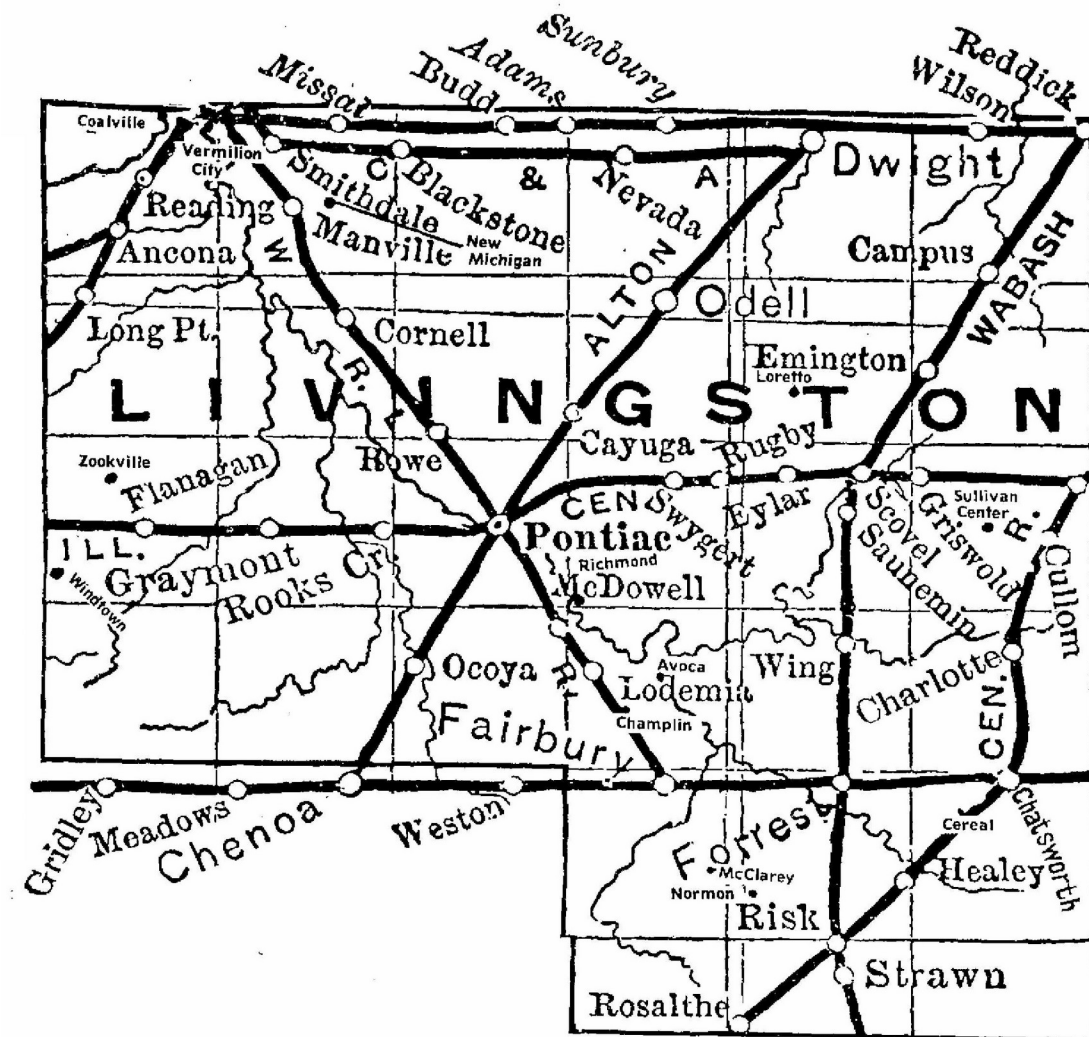
The railroads, however, did not always get their way in establishing towns along their tracks. The Illinois Central Railroad built a siding and depot in the southeast corner of Belle Prairie Township and called the proposed village at that point Rosalthe. They attempted to attract settlers from Cropsey, but people refused to move to the new town and Rosalthe did not develop. The railroad was forced to move the depot and side track to the site of Cropsey.

- Ghost towns cited were added to "no post office" list
- Town stories will be shown later

Map



Newspaper Search

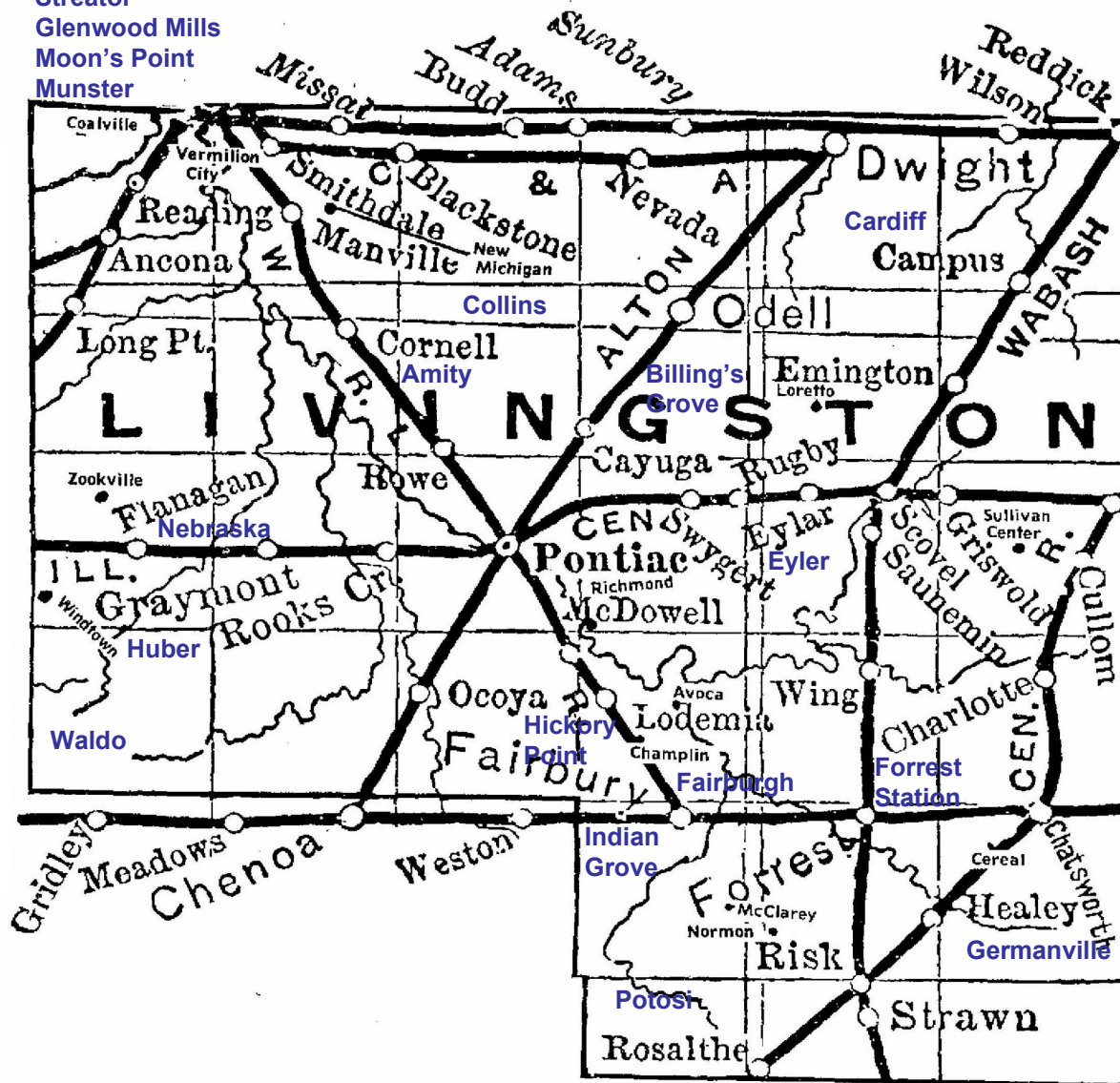


•8 Ghost Towns added from 1976 Leader Article

51	Adams	None
52	Cereal	None
53	Champlin	None
54	Healey	None
55	Reddick	None
56	Richmond	None
57	Windtown	None
58	Zookville	None

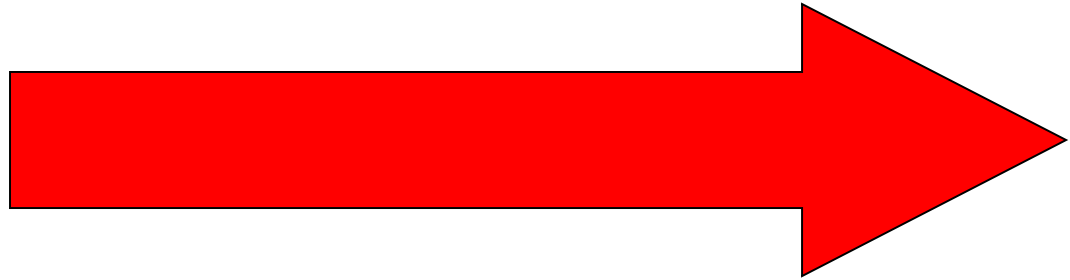
- Now 58 Ghost Towns

Streator
Glenwood Mills
Moon's Point
Munster

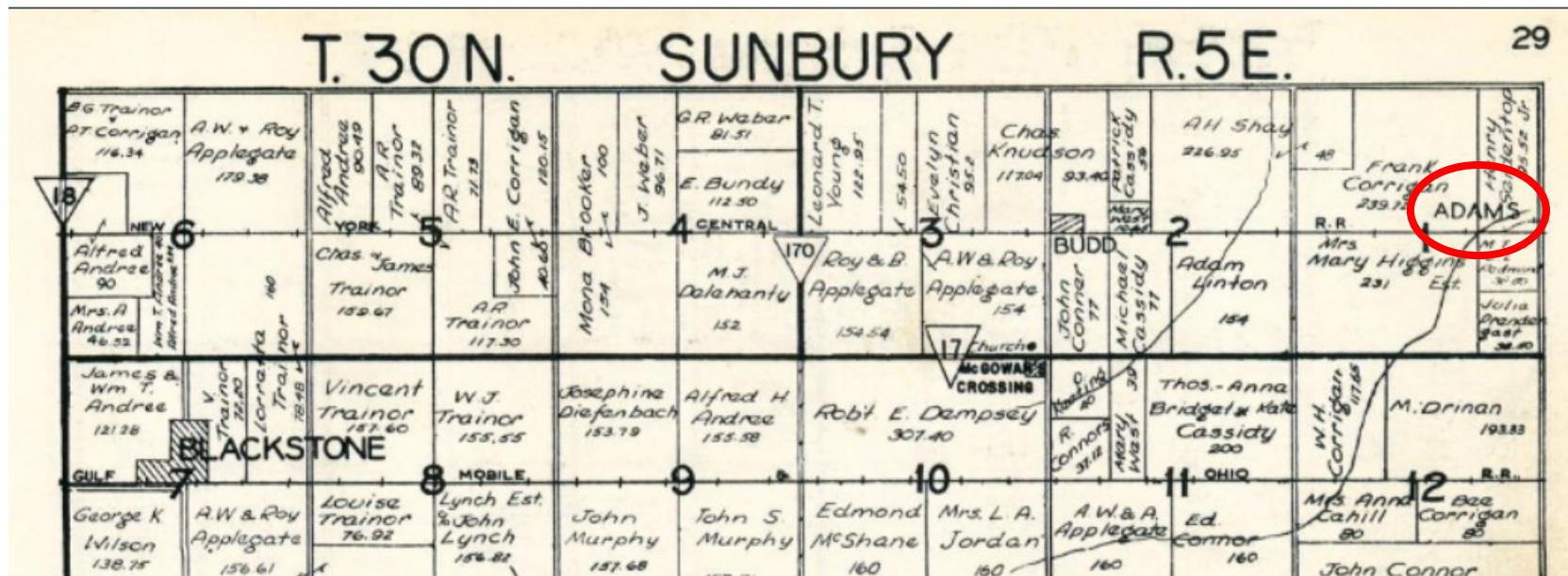


•Updated Map

Listing of All Potential Ghost Towns



Adams – No Post Office





Amity – Post Office 1858-1872

The modern town of Cornell is a blending of two towns founded at almost the same time. Both were attempting to attract a station on the new Fairbury Pontiac and Northwestern Railroad, which eventually became part of the Wabash Railroad.

The Town of Cornell was laid out by Walter P. Cornell (3 April 1811 – 5 May 1889) on 15 June 1871. The adjoining town of Amity was laid out two days later by Willard D. Blake (5 February 1840 – 1 June 1875).

Walter Cornell was born in Rhode Island, came to Illinois in 1837, served three years as County Treasurer, and was a director of the railroad. Blake was a farmer who born in LaSalle County, Illinois, who died at the age of thirty-five.

Ironically, while the name Cornell was kept by the new town, most of the early businesses were in the Amity part of the Platt. Indeed, several early houses built in Cornell were soon moved a few blocks down to the Amity part of the town. Cornell was officially organized as a town in 1873.



Ancona – Post Office ?-1991

- VILLAGE OF ANCONA.

- The history of Ancona is quite similar to that of Reading. With the change of dates and names, the remarks which apply to the one, might with propriety be repeated.

- Ancona was, however, founded on a different basis.

- The Great Air Line Railroad, from Fort Wayne to Council Bluffs, had been projected, surveyed and partially graded through this section, and there was not a doubt entertained that it would be completed.

- Accordingly, in 1854, the town of Ancona was surveyed for Orson Shackleton and Joseph Gumm.

- Depot grounds were set apart, and a street for a track surveyed.

- True to expectation, the road was graded through the village, and then Ancona real estate was held at high figures.



Ancona – Post Office ?-1991

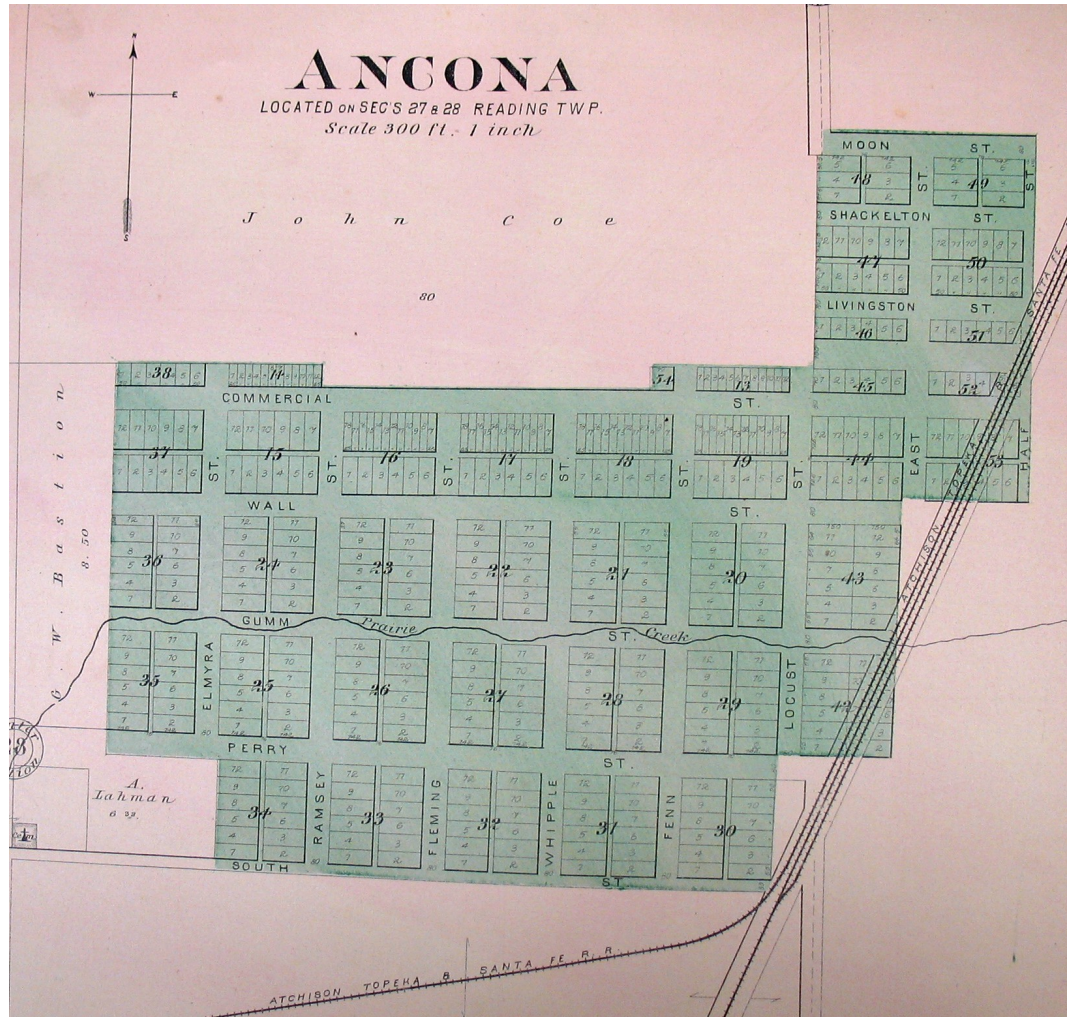
- *Lots* were sold out rapidly, and buildings went up as if by magic.
- Stores were opened and a hotel was built.
 - Orson and Benjamin Shackleton built the first house, a store, and occupied it with a stock of goods.
 - The Shackletons were from New York, and remained here until about eight years ago, when they removed.
 - L. B. Smith, who had been living in the township, and who was formerly from Pennsylvania, built the first dwelling, which was the second house in the place. He is still a resident, and occupies the same old house.
 - William Boatman, also a Pennsylvanian, soon after erected a hotel, and as this was but a short distance from the coal banks it was well patronized.
 - Boatman afterward sold the hotel to Joel Willet, who had been living in the township.
 - Boatman still resides in the village. Willet is dead, but the hotel is still kept open by members of the family.



Ancona – Post Office ?-1991

- After a while, the railroad seemed to be a delusion; and, though it was a severe blow to the little village and the neighborhood, they did not continue to mourn.
 - A few years subsequently, however, the mill was removed, and their hope of making this a town of any great consequence went out.
-

Ancona – Post Office ?-1991



From
1893
Atlas



Angona – Post Office 1856-1962

No data found.

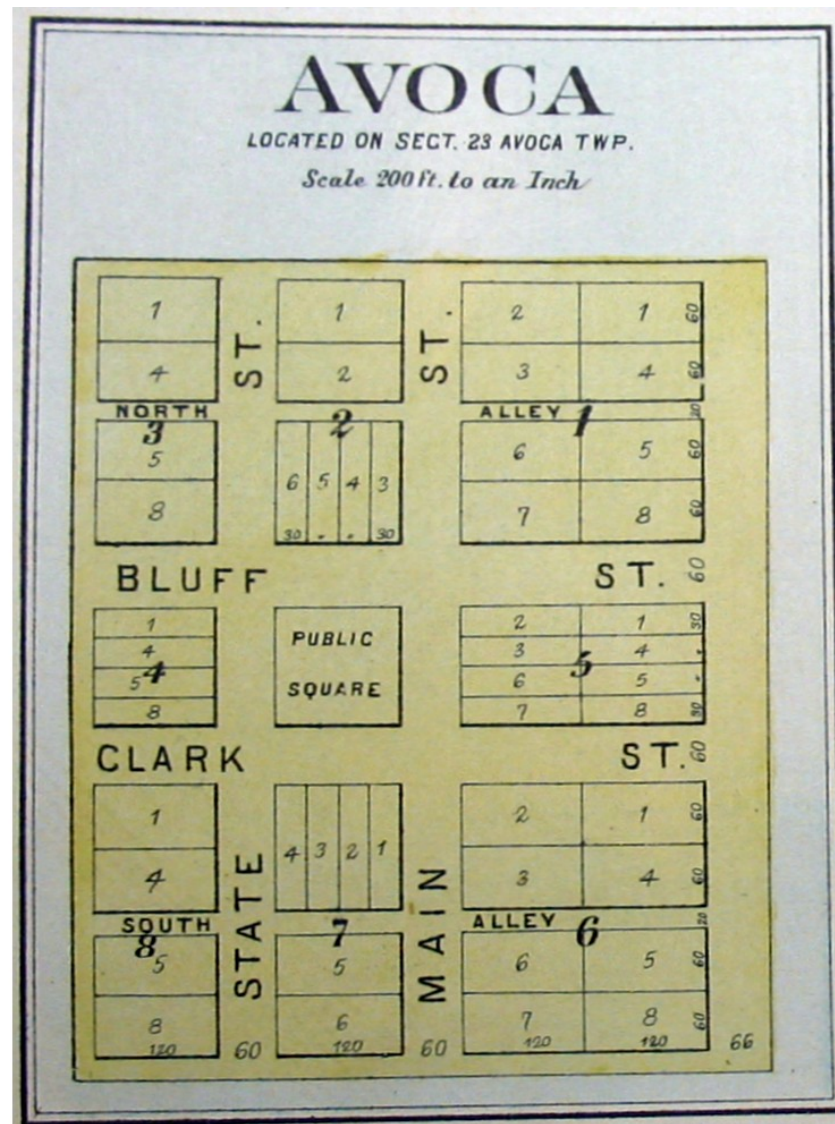
Possibly misspelling of Ancona?



Avoca – Post Office 1838-1872

- **McDowells were some of the very first settlers in Livingston County**
 - **Major Darnall arrived south of Fairbury in 1829**
 - **McDowells arrived in 1832 north of Fairbury, south fork of Vermilion**
- **The McDowells created Avoca**
 - **Church**
 - **Cemetery**
 - **Post Office**
 - **Laid out streets with houses**
- **Peoria & Oquawka Railroad came through in 1857**
 - **Fairbury created in 1857**
 - **Demise of Avoca**
 - **Some of houses moved to Fairbury**
 - **Nothing left today except cemetery**

Avoca



Avoca



Avoca



Rare
photo of
early
wooden
bridge



Billing's Grove – Post Office 1850-1854

- Postmaster in 1851 was R.P. Babcock
- Postmaster in 1853 was Joseph Sedgwick
- Also called Babcock's Grove
 - Judge Billings P. Babcock

Billing's Grove – Post Office 1850-1854





Billing's Grove – Post Office 1850-1854

About this time, an incident occurred which aroused the minds of some citizens who had before this been much opposed to abolition. One Sunday morning, about the year 1853, Judge Babcock, 'who had recently purchased the Grove farm, heard a terrible racket down the road, and. accompanied by a man who was making it his home there, stepped to the road to see what was the matter, when a most singular, and to him a new sight met his eyes.

In the covered wagon were two as frightened negroes as ever drew breath in the prairie air of Illinois; beside the wagon were two men on horseback, demanding in the most boisterous tones an unconditional surrender. Between them and the two chattels, walked a man, with a pistol in each hand, threatening the lives of the two pursuers if they came any closer, and alternately threatening the fugitives if they attempted to get out of the wagon, in response to the demands of their Pursuers.

They were two fugitives, accompanied by a colored barber from Bloomington, and pursued by two Pontiac citizens. As soon as the pursuers saw Judge Babcock and his companion, they rushed up and demanded help, which was politely refused, and then wanted to borrow their guns. which was also refused, and the Judge was by the force of circumstances, forced to help these fleeing fugitives on their way to Col. Stewart at Wilmington, whereas for all his life, up to that moment, he had been an opponent of all the schemes of Abolitionists. The next time he went to Pontiac, he found it generally noised about that “~a d--d Abolitionist had just come from York State, and settled almost right in our midst.”



Billing's Grove – Post Office 1850-1854

Of the men whose names appear above, whose lives are well remembered. are B. P. Babcock, who, after a faithful term as County Judge, where he displayed the same clear, cautious and honest care in public which has always marked his private affairs is now one of the largest farmers in the county, owning two splendid sections of land, upon which is Babcock's Grove, of which Isaac Funk once said, that next to Elkhart Grove, he thought nature had made this the handsomest spot in this whole glorious State."

**1878 history book has
more info on Judge Babcock.**

Budd – Post Office 1883-1925

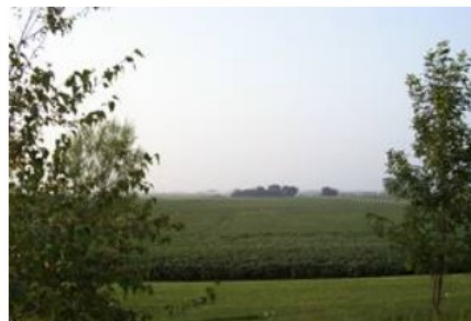
History of Budd, Illinois

Budd is a post office and station on the Indiana, Illinois & Iowa railroad, in the extreme northern part of the county. It has the Adams Express and Western Union Telegraph facilities. The station is ten miles west of Dwight and fifteen miles north of Pontiac. A rich farming region surrounds the station and considerable grain and stock are shipped. (1878)

Today Budd has a grain elevator and approximately four families living in the near vicinity.

St. Bernard Catholic Church is located nearby on the corner of Budd Road and Rt. 17. It is now privately owned by Annette & Kevin Liptak. You can see why I love Livingston County past and present. Annette

Photos provided by Annette and Kevin Liptak



Budd – Post Office 1883-1925



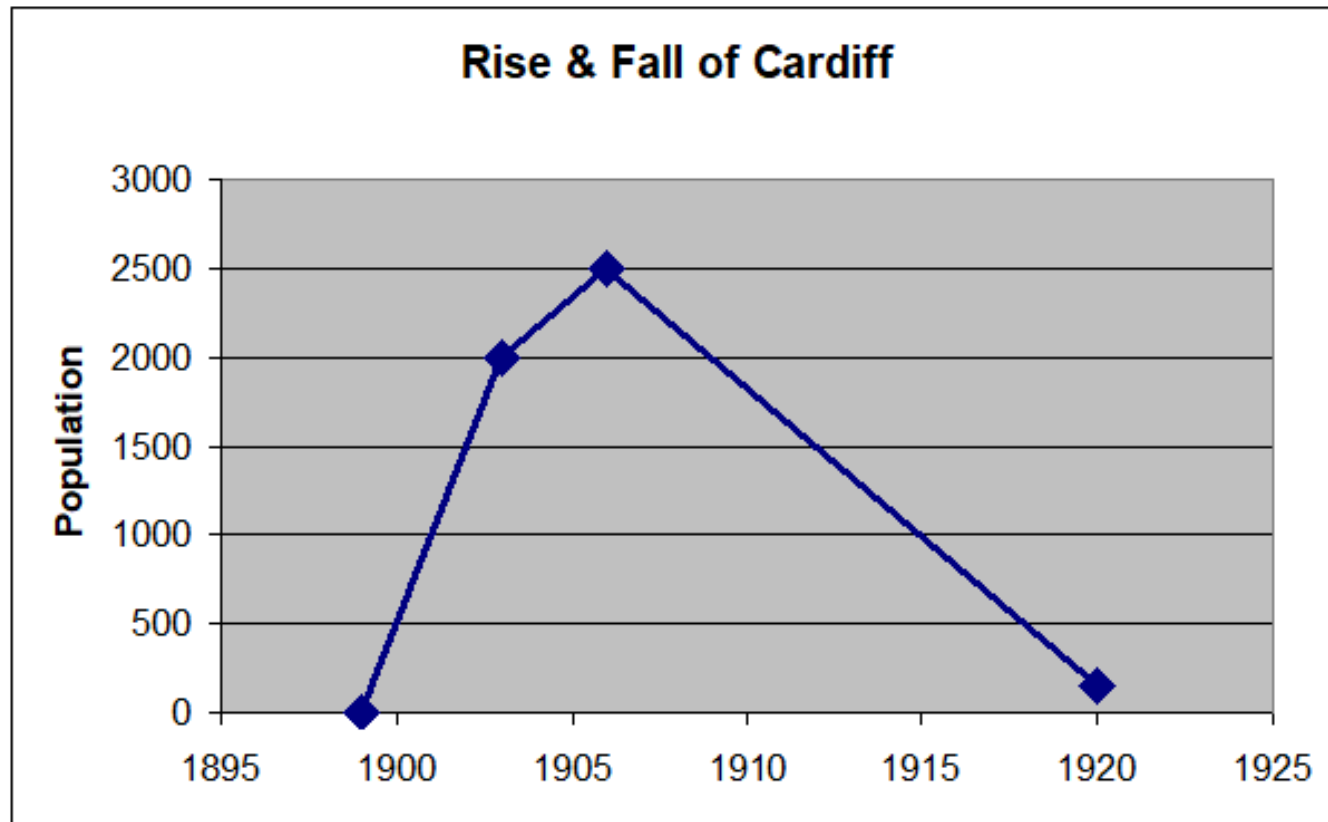
Budd in the distance by the trees, view from my backyard



St. Bernard' s Catholic Church – closed in 1991
Former St. Bernard' s church, rectory and hall, now home of

Cardiff – Post Office 1899-1919

Most famous ghost town in County



Cardiff – Post Office 1899-1919

- Was known as “Collopy’s Corner” after Patrick and Ann Collopy
- Coal found at 250 feet
- Named Cardiff after one of the richest coal mining areas in the world
 - Cardiff, Wales
- By January 1903 there were 400 miners bringing up 1,200 to 1,600 tons of coal per day
- Company was still not able to meet the demand for its coal.
- The village had a population of over 2,000 people

Bad Times..





- And then disaster struck. Around midnight on Thursday, March 12, 1903, an explosion in the mine sent a huge blast of air that blew three miners against the shaft wall, killing them. The huge explosion shook the town and awakened most of the residents. Flames and debris shot up more than 100 feet from the mine opening.

- Rescuers were able to get the dead and all the injured out of the mine near five in the morning on Friday. Funerals for the three victims were held in Cardiff on Sunday. Those killed were Charles Joseph Hewitt, 23, a single man; John McClosky, 23, who had a wife and one child; and James Barra, 41, who had a wife and four children.

- On that same Sunday morning, a crew of six men were in the mine cleaning up debris from the explosion. Shortly after the funerals were finished, a second mine explosion occurred. Five of the six men working were killed. Those killed were Anton Hassell, 38, who had a wife and three children; Anton Jeokoski, 23, a single man; Ulysses Alderson, 23, who left a wife and two children; Archie Wilson, 51, who had a wife and seven children; and James Hutchinson, 51, who left a widow and eight children.



Cardiff – Post Office 1899-1919

- A third explosion occurred on Monday just before another crew was going to go in for repairs. This was the largest blast of the three. Blowing out the top of the mine shaft, and damaging machinery, the tower house and the engine house. Company carpenter Allen Michaels was looking down the shaft when it exploded and was killed.
- Two more explosions occurred over the next couple days. No one else was hurt. The toll in the five explosions was nine dead and thirteen injured. The cause of the explosion was never determined although it was likely due to a gas explosion.
- The mine was a total loss. It was estimated at a \$100,000 loss by the company. The disaster looked like it would spell doom for Cardiff.



Cardiff – Post Office 1899-1919

- New mine shaft dug in 1903
- 500 miners and population grew to 2,000 to 2,500
- 2 Banks
- 2 Grain Elevators
- Soft-drink bottling plant
- Candy Factory
- 2 Dance Halls
- Clothing Stores
- 2 Meat Markets
- 2 Bakeries
- Barber Shops
- Millinery shop
- General Stores
- 2 Blacksmith Shops
- Pharmacy
- 2 Ice Houses
- Real Estate & Insurance Office
- 2 Auto Dealerships



Cardiff – Post Office 1899-1919

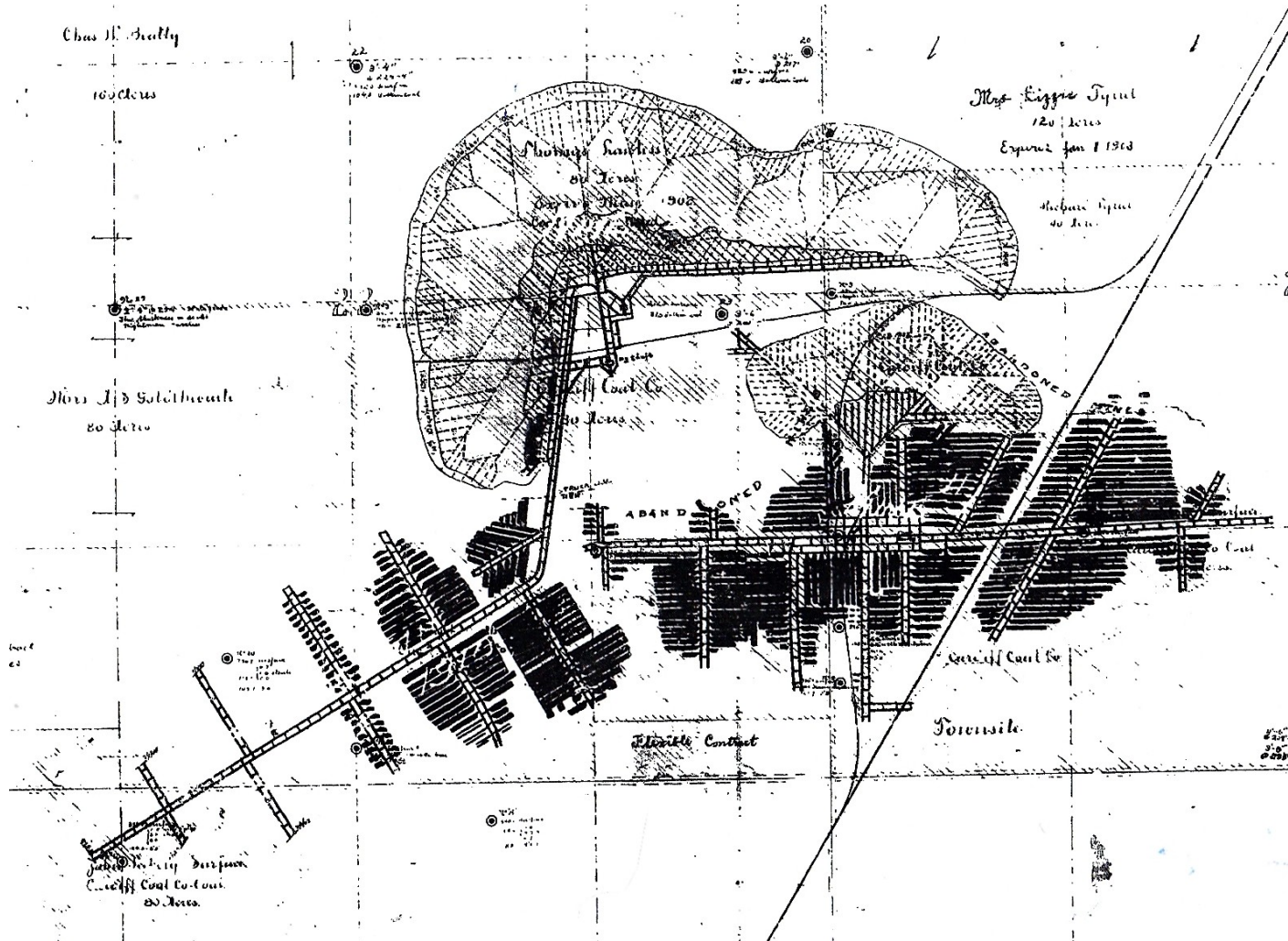
- The town had pressurized water system
- A gas works system
- An electric light plant
- A railroad depot
- Two railroad lines with passenger service
- A first class hotel with fine cuisine.
- A doctor's office and a post office.



Cardiff – Post Office 1899-1919

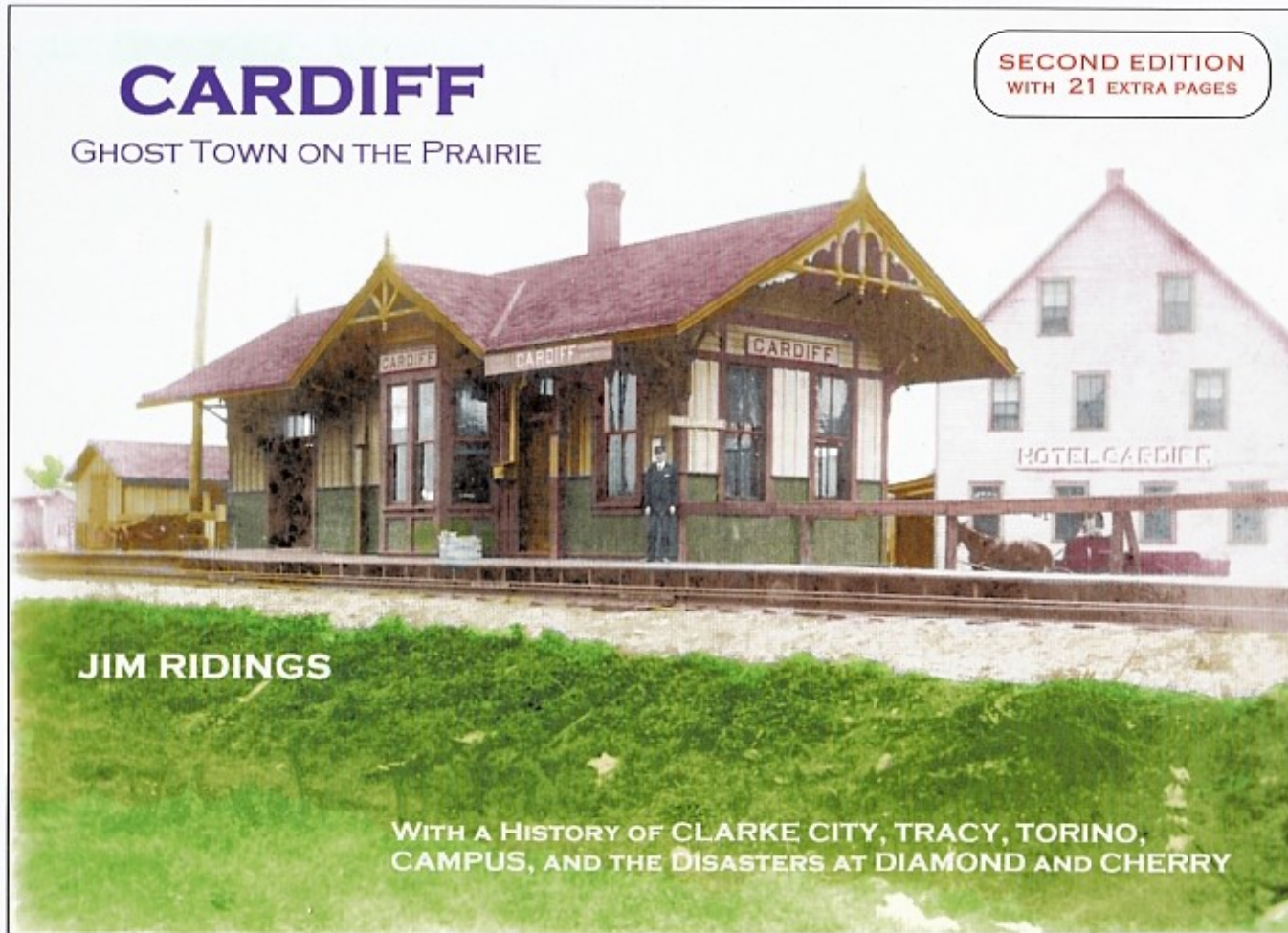
- In 1910, biggest customer....Wabash Railroad said it was no longer purchasing Cardiff Coal
 - Coal not good enough quality for their steam locomotives
 - Mine closed Sept. 21, 1912
- People left town and businesses closed
- Houses were moved to other towns
- Nothing left today of Cardiff

Cardiff – Post Office 1899-1919



**Tunnel
Map**

Cardiff – Post Office 1899-1919



2 Books
available for
sale at
Campus
State Bank.

Also copies at
some
libraries.



Cayuga – Post Office 1857-1931

•The four railroads which pass through the county make no small item in the importance and wealth of the county. From their building dates the filling up of our county and the bringing its lands into market. Without them we were, and, in all human probability, would have, remained a waving prairie.

•The first road in date of construction, the Chicago & Mississippi. Running from Joliet to Alton, was built in 1853 and '54. A few years later, it was. Sold out on the second mortgage, and bid off by Joel A. Matteson, for \$6,500. He run it for a time, and then permitted it to be sold, and it was purchased by T. B. Blackstone and others, who formed the Chicago & Alton Company, and have made it a successful road. The company purchased a controlling interest in the stock of the Chicago & Joliet road, and now, practically, it is a continuous line.

•The stations on their main line are Dwight, Odell, Cayuga, Pontiac and Ocoya.

•In 1869, this road built the Western Division, running from Dwight through the northern part of the county to Streator, thence southwest to Washington, in Tazewell County. with Nevada, Blackstone and Smithdale on it and about the same time put down a second track from Odell north as far as Gardner.



Cayuga – Post Office 1857-1931

- The town of Cayuga is more than a year the senior of her sister town, Odell, having been surveyed and platted April 10, 1855.
- It was laid out by Thomas F. Norton, County Surveyor, from Section 31, for Corydon Weed, of Mclean County.
- It will be noticed that, as a general thing, while towns established at a distance of ten or twelve miles apart have flourished, those lying between have been almost invariably less successful.
- Certainly no other reason can be given why Cayuga should not have developed equally with other towns along the road. There is no more pleasant situation for a prosperous village on the road. Doubtless, its close proximity to an already- established trading point is the sole reason.



Cayuga – Post Office 1857-1931

- The first settlers in the vicinity of this station are given as nearly in the order in which they came to the place as can now be remembered:
 - Edwin and James Chapman came from Lisbon, in this State, in the Fall of 1855. They were carpenters, and, previous to 1860, they either built or helped to build almost every house in the neighborhood.

CAYUGA.

Brittenham, C. K., Dealer in Grain
and Live Stock.

Chapman, E. O., Station Agent Chi-
cago & Alton Railroad.

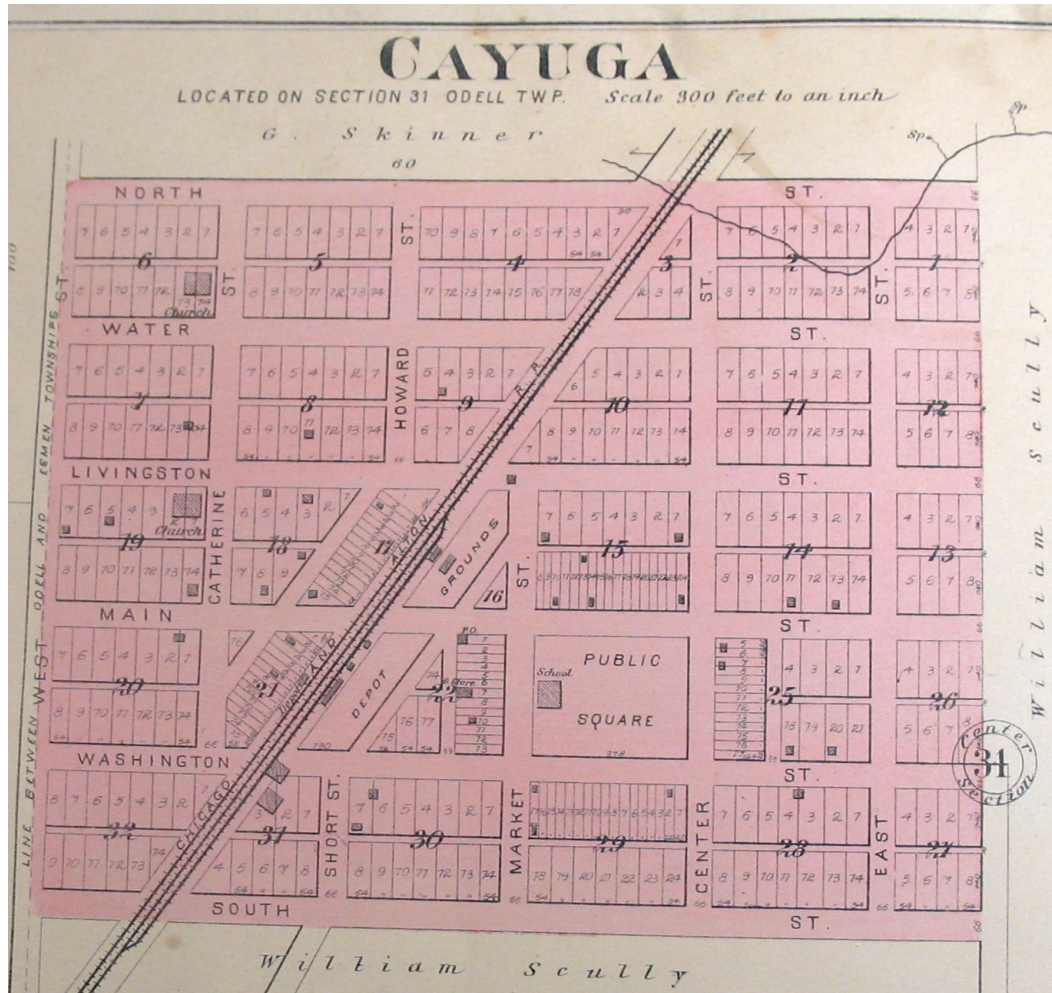
Coe, C. N., Dealer in Grain.

Eppler, Peter, M. D., Physician
and Surgeon.

Kent, L. E., Dealer in Grain and Live
Stock.

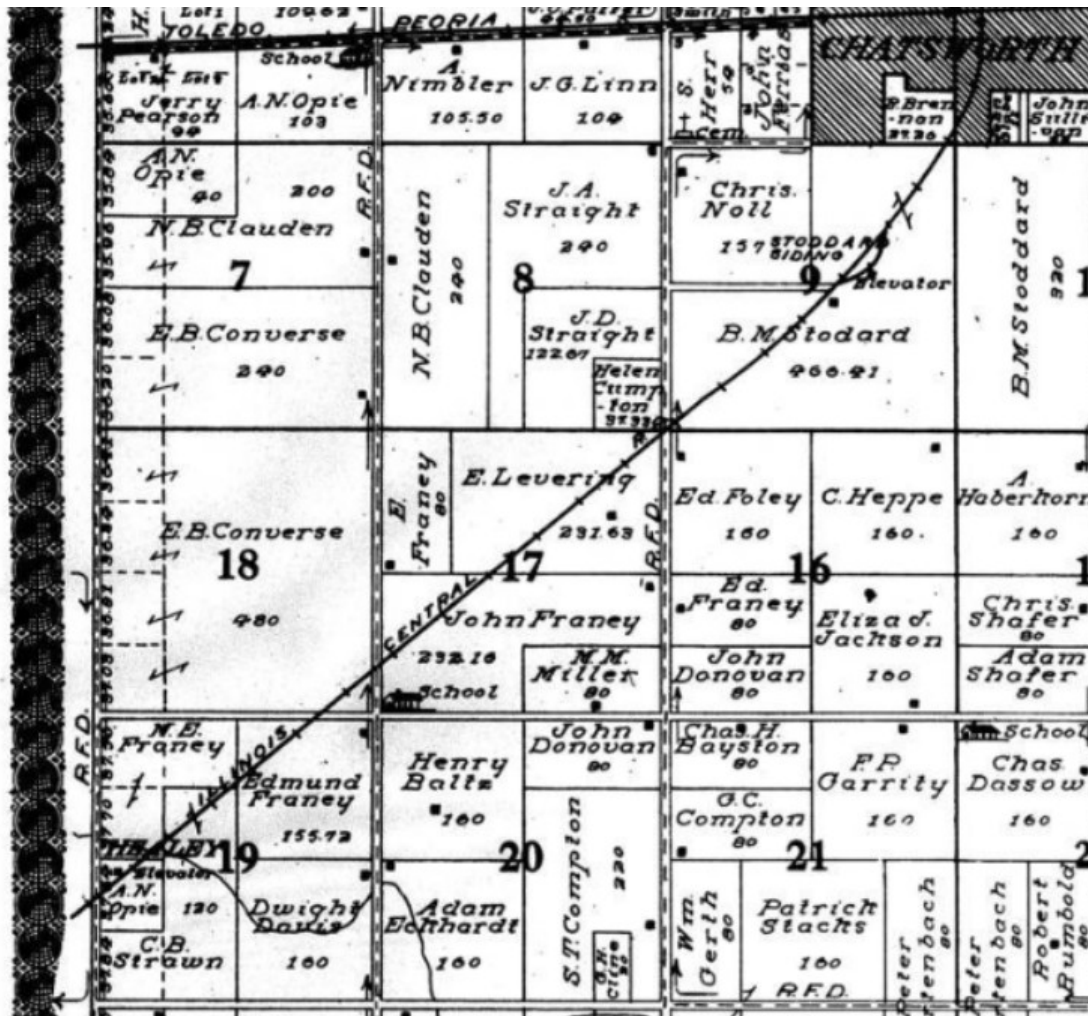
Leonard, B. F., Blacksmith.

Cayuga – Post Office 1857-1931



From 1893
Atlas

Cereal – No Post Office



On railroad,
but never
more than a
shipping point.

1911 Map

Champlin – No Post Office



- On railroad, but never more than a shipping point.
- Was on old Chicago & Paducah RR going through Fairbury, Champlin, Lodemia, McDowell, Pontiac.
- Was torn down in 2016 by wood re-claimer.
- Stacked timber design with sheet metal covering.

Champlin – No Post Office



•From 1927 Blade



Champlin – No Post Office

MOSES CHAMPLIN, farmer and stock raiser, and dealer in grain; P. O. Fairbury; has been a resident of Livingston Co. since 1860, having moved here from Marshall Co., where he had resided for two years previously; he was born in Albany Co., N. Y., on the 23d of December, 1809; when he was about 6 years of age, his parents removed to Madison Co., N. Y., and about six years later to Jefferson Co.; there he lived until he came to Illinois, in 1858; he settled in 1863 on his present farm, on Secs. 20 and 29, where he owns 320 acres of land, valued at \$12,800. Mr. Champlin was married in November, 1833, to Miss Tirzah Stanley, of Jefferson Co., N. Y., who was born in Oneida Co., N. Y., in March, 1810; they have six children—Lewis C., Hannah L., Alson P., Henry C., Nancy M. and Ella J.

•From 1878 history book.



Charlotte – Post Office 1880-1931

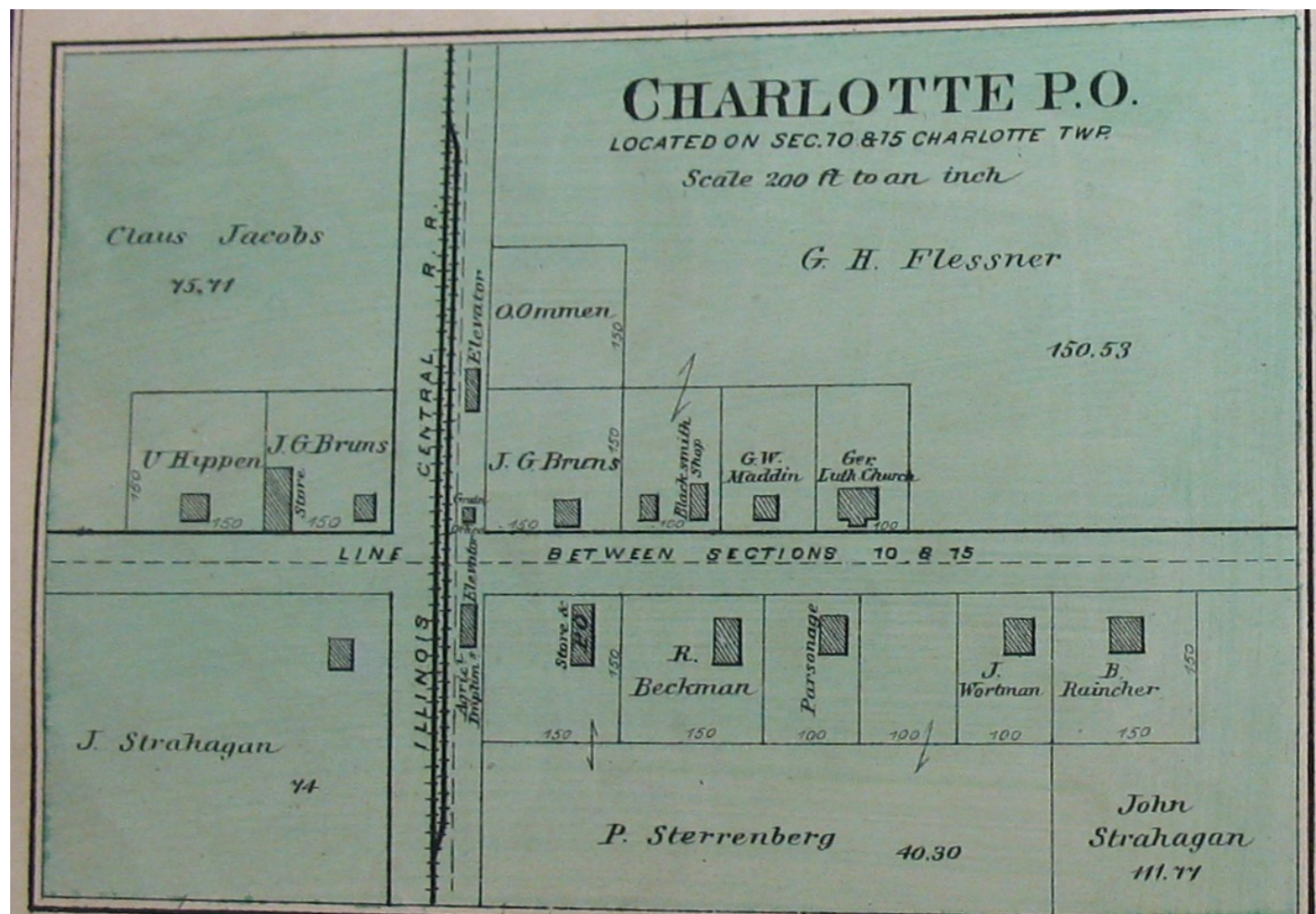
- At the time of the formation of Livingston County, Saunemin, Sullivan, Pleasant Ridge and Charlotte Townships were comprised in one election precinct,
- and it so stood until the second year after township organization, when Pleasant Ridge and Charlotte were struck off, as noted in another place.
- When all four of these towns were embraced in one, it was called Saunemin, after the old sachem of the Kickapoo Indians, and was given to the precinct by Oliver, of the present township of Chatsworth, who settled there when Indians were plenty in the country, and knew the old chief well.



Charlotte – Post Office 1880-1931

- 1878 history book has long description of first settlers to Charlotte Township
- 1909 Vol. 2 history book
 - CHARLOTTE.—Named by Louis W. Dart, after a girl that he courted in Vermont, his native state, in his bachelor days.
 - The village of Charlotte Is located on sections 10 and 15.
 - VILLAGE OF CHARLOTTE. Charlotte is on a branch of the Illinois Central road. The village is located midway between Chatsworth and Cullom. It has not grown to any great extent in recent years.
 - There Is a general store conducted by Sterrenberg & Son, a blacksmith shop and two elevators. It has about a population of fifty.

Charlotte – Post Office 1880-1931



From
1893
Atlas



Coalville – Post Office 1865-1892

•VILLAGE OF COALVILLE

- This is a little town, laid out by L. H. Mallery, October 6, 1865, near the coal beds, on Section 2. z
- The town is occupied almost wholly by parties interested in the mining of the coal, of which immense quantities are taken out here.
- As much as 2,000 tons are mined per year; and before the works at Streator were established, more than double this amount was mined.
- The mines are owned by L. H. Mallery and others, who allow them to be worked by other parties, who pay the proprietors a percentage of the products.



Collins – Post Office 1872-1883

- VILLAGE OF COLLINS OR NEWTOWN (from 1878 history book).
 - The Chicago & Paducah Railroad having been completed through this part of the county in 1871, and a switch being laid at this place, steps were immediately taken to found a town.
- On the 7th of August, in the year mentioned, M. E. Collins, who had been actively engaged in procuring the location of the road, caused to be laid out, from the southeast quarter of Section 21, the plat since known as Collins.
- A few weeks later, October 18th, Jacob Kuns and David Hoobler laid out a second plat of eleven acres, from the same section, naming it Newtown.
- While the post-office, established here soon after, has always retained the name of Collins, the village has generally been known by the other name.
- The first house in the limits of the village was a dwelling, brought by M.
- A. Newman from his farm.



Collins – Post Office 1872-1883

- Chester Manley built the first dwelling in the town; and M. E. Collins erected the first store building.
- David Hoobler and David Gouty moved a store room from New Michigan the same Fall. Soon after, J. & W. Hossack, of Odell, erected a small warehouse, built cribs and commenced buying grain.
- By the Winter of 1871-2, business was quite well established, and thus bid fair to be a town of considerable importance. Since that time, the village has continued to improve slowly, so that at present there are some twenty families in the place.
- In the Fall of 1874, the Methodist Episcopal Church of New Michigan, following the example of other buildings, moved to the station.
- No school house has yet been erected, but one is contemplated, and will doubtless be built soon, as the wants of the town demand such accommodations.



Collins – Post Office 1872-1883

COLLINS.

Hoobler, David, Merchant.

Hoobler, Andrew J., Merchant.

Dealer in Dry Goods and Groceries.

Manly, Chester R., Station Agent
and Grain Buyer.

Newman, Martin A., Postmaster
and Druggist.

From 1878 History Book.



Eyler – Post Office 1880-1919

- From 1909 Vol. 2 History Book
 - The early youth of Luther B. Slyder was passed on his father's farm, and he attended the common schools and the Illinois State Normal University.
 - After finishing his studies, he went West, and was engaged in farming for three years.
 - On returning to Illinois he entered the grain trade at Rugby, in which he continued between two and three years, going thence to **Eyler**, and being engaged two years in the same line there.
 - He then took charge of a line of elevators for T. C. Bartlett & Co., of Peoria, Ill., remaining with that firm one year.



Eyler – Post Office 1880-1919

- From 1976 Leader
 - The railroad established several communities by locating switches for shipping points at many locations.
 - Some of these towns blossomed and grew, others have actually shrunk size as nearby large communities have become more attractive.
 - These communities include Eyler, Griswold, and Scovel on the Kankakee and Minonk branch of the Illinois Central Railroad.
 - Eyler and Griswold once reported populations of 30 each.

Fairburgh – Post Office 1858-1866

- Fairbury founded in 1857 when Peoria & Oquawka Railroad laid track from Peoria to Indiana border.
- Mistake made in Post Office application process.
- Name came back as Fairburgh instead of desired Fairbury!!
- Took until 1867 to get it corrected.
- Many Civil War soldiers have Fairburgh instead of Fairbury as home address

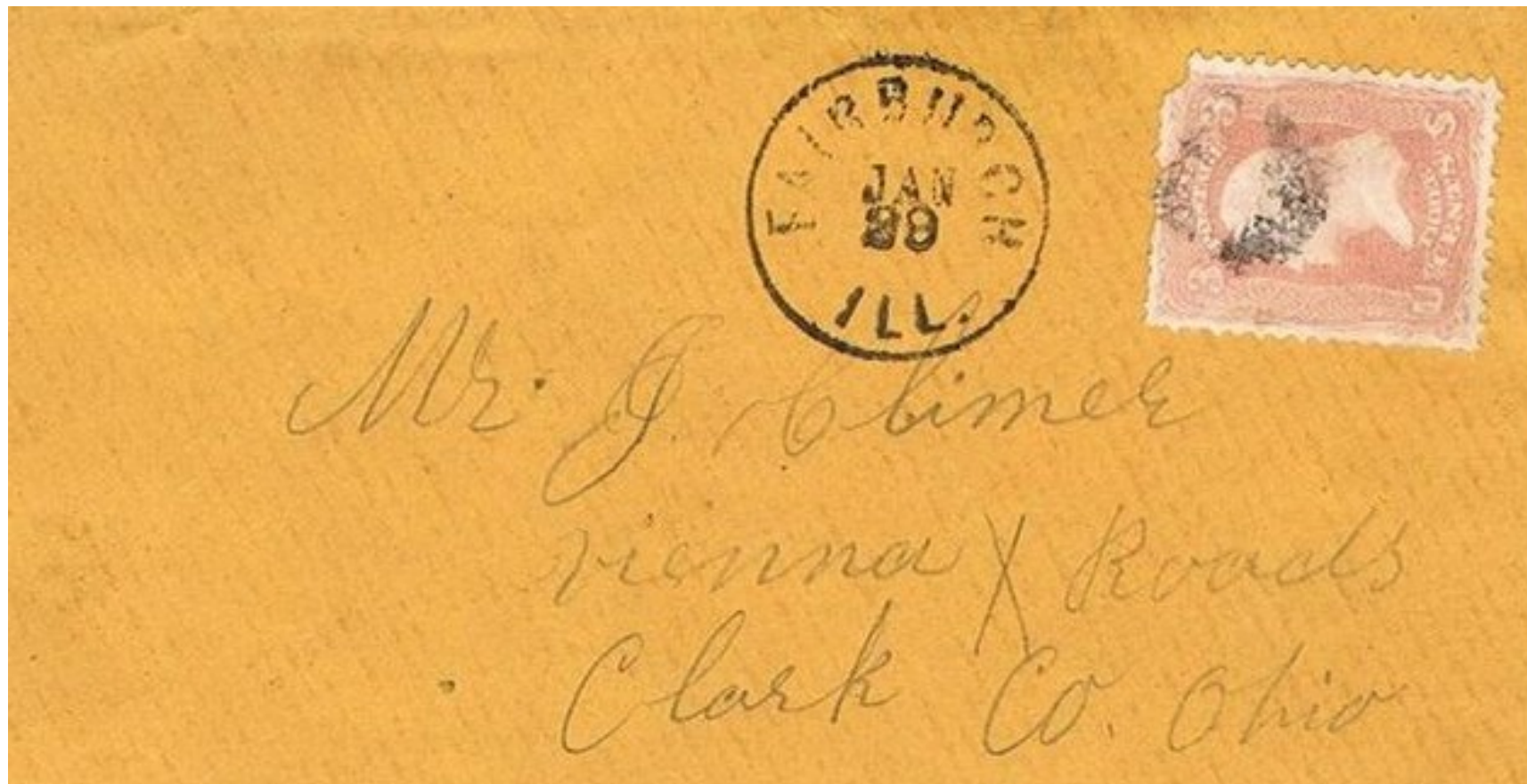
2 Rare photos
from Diane
Pawlowski
collection



Fairburgh – Post Office 1858-1866



Fairburch – Post Office 1858-1866





Forrest Station – Post Office 1860-1868

- Peoria & Oquawka Railroad came through in 1857
 - Forrest Township was named for Forrest Village, and Forrest Village for Forrest Township, and both for a Mr. Forrest, of New York, who was the business partner of Mr. Frost, President of the Peoria & Oquawka Railroad, when the T., P. & W. was known by that euphonious title.
 - It was first called Forestville, but at the special request of Mr. Frost, was changed to the name of Forrest, his partner, and "Who, he promised, would do something handsome for the young village-a promise however, which still remains unfulfilled.
- Post Office named Forrest Station between 1860 and 1868.
- Village of Forrest was laid out in 1866
- Post Office renamed to Forrest in 1868



Germanville – Post Office 1893-1894

- GERMANVILLE TOWNSHIP (from 1909 Vol. 2 history book)
 - This township is located in the extreme southeastern corner of the county.
 - At the September meeting of the board of supervisors for 1867, this township petitioned for separation from Chatsworth Township, and the same was granted.
 - It was first called Germantown, but in recent years has been known by its present name.
 - Fully three-fourths of the residents are Germans, they being the first settlers, and for that reason it probably derives its name.
 - The township has neither a railroad nor a post office.
 - Citizens receive their mail from Chatsworth, Strawn and Melvin, and their trading is done at these places.



Germanville – Post Office 1893-1894

- Can not find location of town or post office on a map
- Assumed to be in Germanville Township

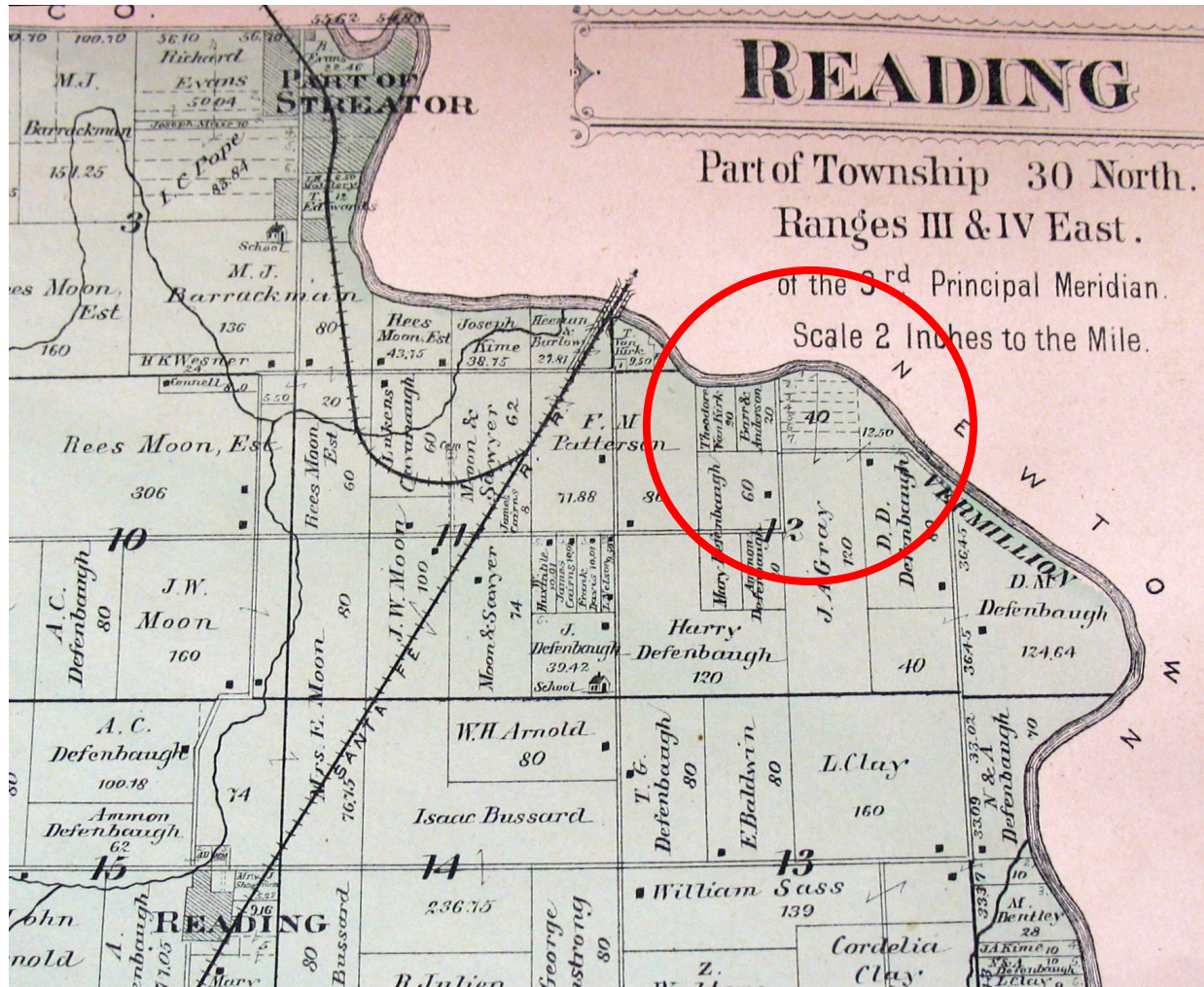


Glenwood Mills – Post Office 1860-1870

- From 1878 History Book:

- Glenwood Mill, on the northeast quarter of Section 12, about the middle of the quarter section.
- The river runs north, 35° west, and the sandstone above the shale that overlies the coal at Streator, shows here with a dip south, 35 ° east, one foot in ten.
- At the mill the dam rests upon the coal. One mile above the dam the coal appears again. It was worked in 1860 and 1861, and said to be three and a half feet thick.

Glenwood Mills – Post Office 1860-1870

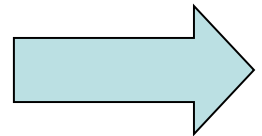


From
1893
Atlas

Griswold – Post Office 1880-1913

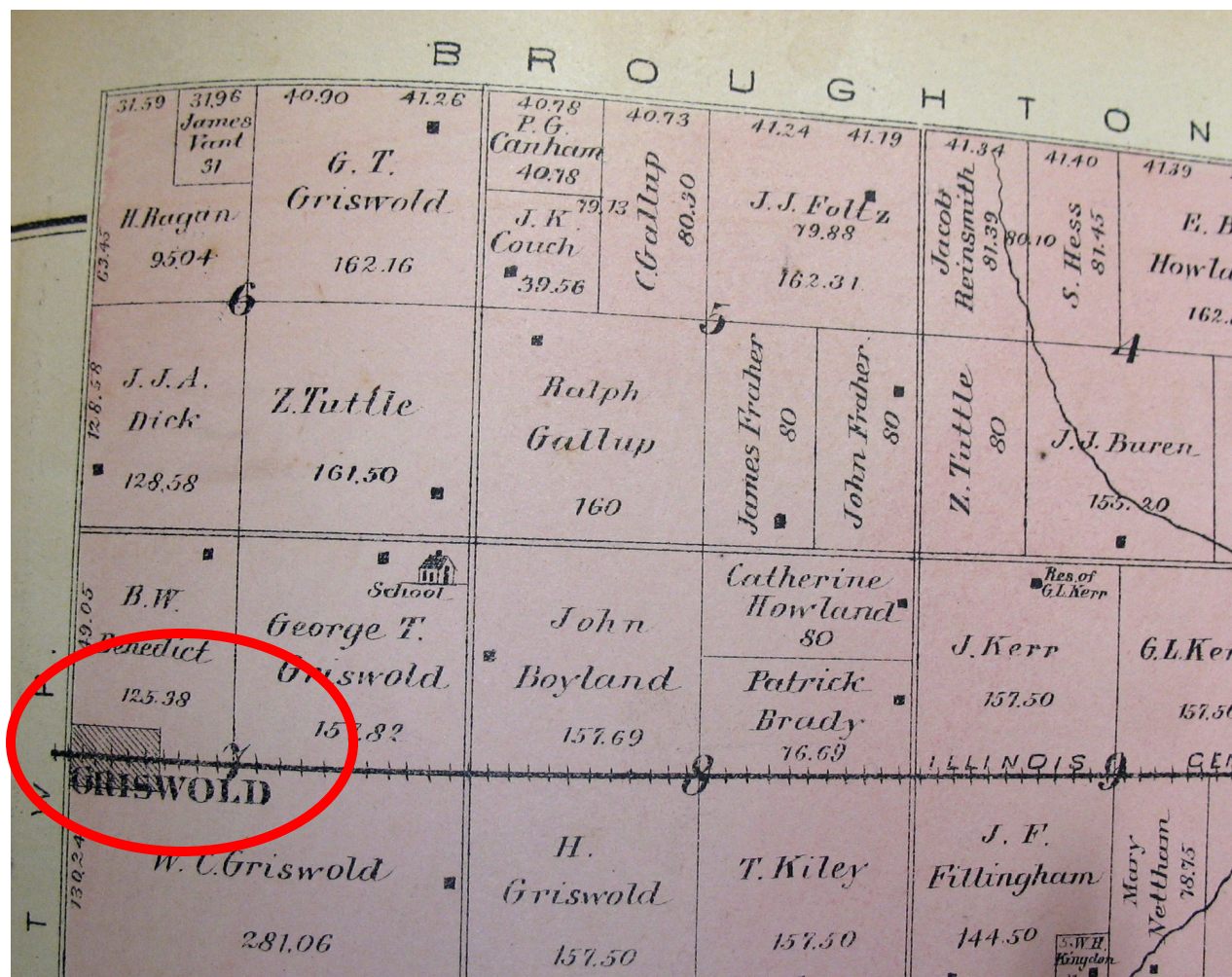
- From 1909 Vol. 2 history book
 - VILLAGE OF GRISWOLD.
 - Griswold is on the Illinois Central road, twelve miles east of Pontiac.
 - A store, an elevator and a few residences constitute the village.

In Sullivan Township



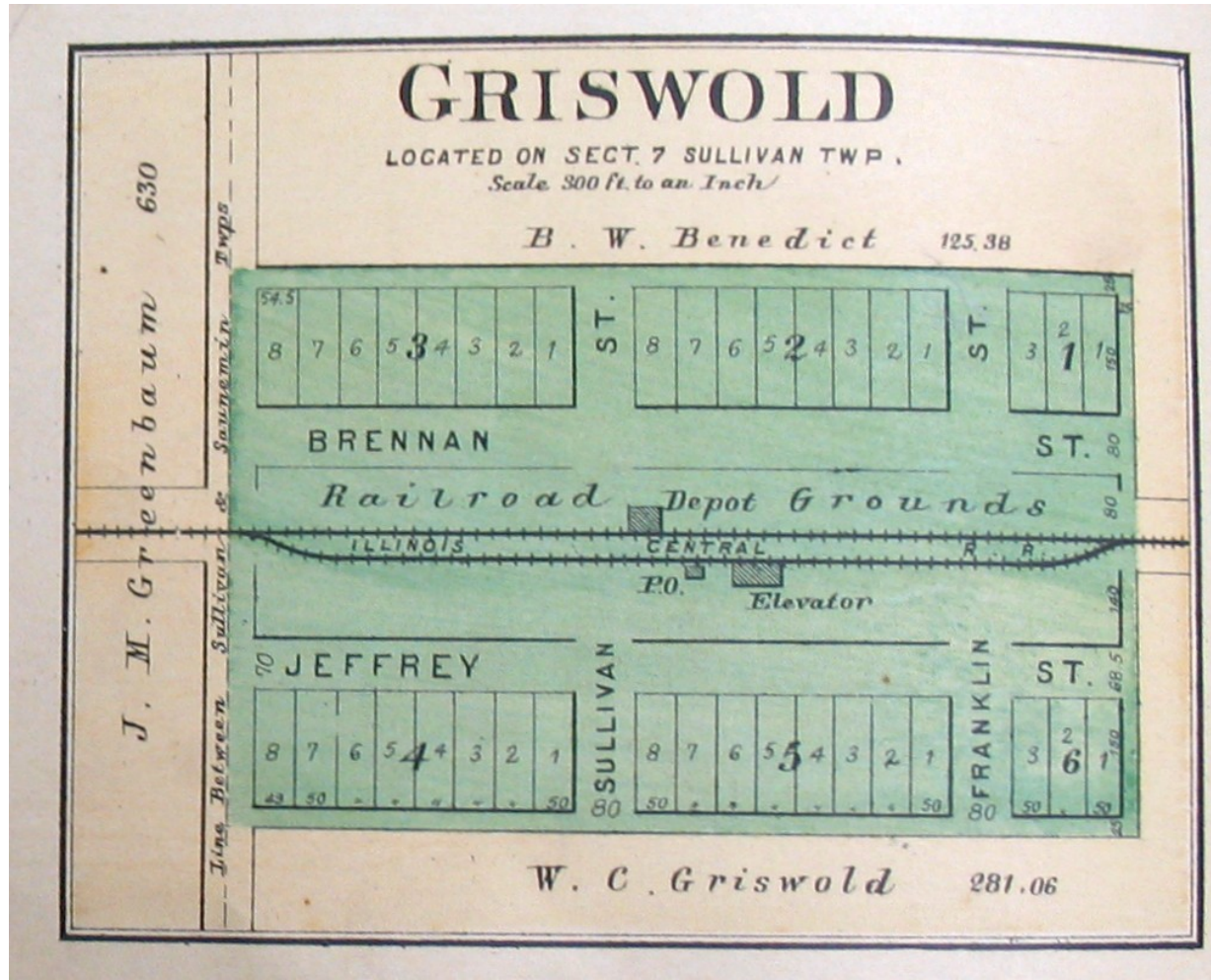
Griswold – Post Office 1880-1913

1893
Atlas



Griswold – Post Office 1880-1913

1893
Atlas





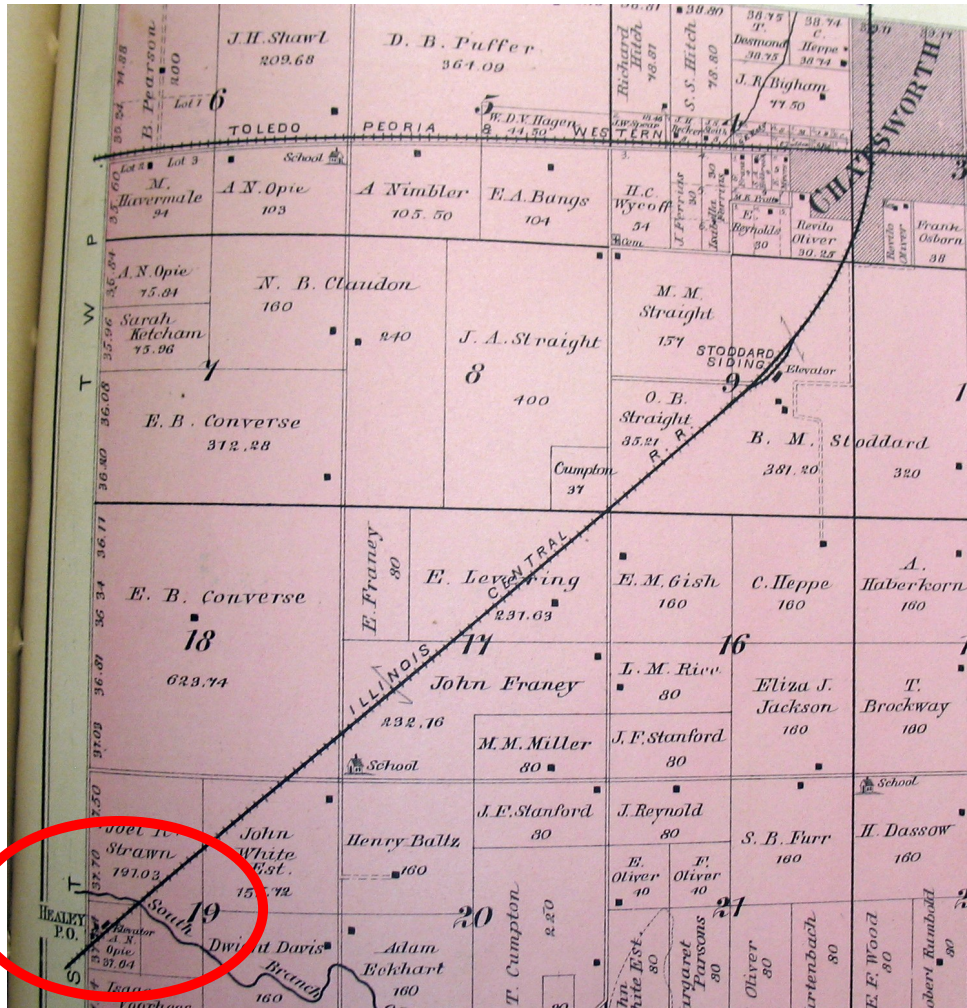
Healey – Post Office 1884-1901

1909 Vol. 2

- James H. Kerrins remained on the home farm until 1893, working with his father, together with his younger brothers, and then in company with his brother, John A., he engaged in the grocery and commission business.
- Disposing of his interest to his brother eighteen months later, he established himself in the grain trade, starting in 1895, the elevators with which he was then connected being owned by the Rogers Grain Company, and located in Chatsworth, Charlotte and Healey.
- On January 1, 1908, he took charge of the Illinois Central Railroad Company elevator at Chatsworth, on a lease, and is making a complete success of the undertaking.
- Mr. Kerrins is not -married but occupies the family residence with his mother. He is the executor of the paternal estate.
- Aside from business cares, he is fond of athletic games.

Healey – Post Office 1884-1901

1893 Atlas





Hickory Point – Post Office 1856-1859

- From 1909 Vol. 2 history book:
 - The next fair was held in Pontiac on September 28, 29 and 30, 1859, it having been lengthened out one day.
 - S. L. Manker was elected president; William Perry, vice-president; B. P. Babcock, secretary; John Dehner, treasurer.
 - The following directors were chosen Dr. C. B. Ostrander, Hickory Point; G. M. Bedinger, Chenoa; T. W. Brydia, Five-Mile Grove; M. B. Patty, Pontiac; Thomas Mills, Long Point; William B. Lyon, Reading, and Benjamin Walton, Fairbury..



Hickory Point – Post Office 1856-1859

POST OFFICES—*Illinois.*

Post office.	County.	Postmaster.	Compensation.	Net proceeds.
Hennepin.....	Putnam	Chester Eddy	\$258 96	\$214 02
Henry	Marshall	P. M. Janney	741 81	829 69
Hermitage.....	Coles	Caleb Bales	25 26	22 93
Hermon	Knox	E. Littlefield	25 64	14 06
Herndon		J. Morrison, 1 qr	1 28	1 46
Hershey's Mills.....	Lawrence	A. Martin	9 82	9 29
Heyworth	McLean.....	J. Vanordstrand	147 75	122 25
Hickory	Lake.....	Chester Ames.....	11 07	14 41
Hickory Creek.....	Fayette	B. W. Edwards.....	13 04	9 49
Hickory Grove.....	Massac.....	W. J. Thompson.....	3 05	3 62
Hickory Hill.....	Marion	W. F. Meador	8 70	10 28
Hickory Point	McDonough	C. B. Ostrander, to April 23.....	3 31	6 47
Hicks' Mills.....	De Kalb.	J. W. Ellithorpe.....	29 98	26 87
Hickory	Jasper	John Rice	12 19	5 12
Hickory				

•1859 Book

•Web page may have mistake. Maybe Dr. Ostrander came from McDonough County before moving to Livingston County.



Hickory Point – Post Office 1856-1859

- From Dr. Ostrander obit, he lived in Chicago before he moved to Pontiac.
 - 1850 Census, was living in Pontiac
 - 1860 Census was living in Avoca Township
 - 1877 was appointed Lodemia postmaster
- Consulted land purchase records from Government
 - He bought land in Section 18, which is one section west of Lodemia
 - Hickory Creek comes from Section 18, empties into Vermilion at McDowell
- Hickory Point must have been southwest of McDowell



Huber – Post Office 1880-1880

From book: Place Names of Illinois

GRAYMONT. Livingston. Eight miles west of Pontiac. Founded by George B. Gray (Bateman and Selby, eds., *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois and History of Livingston County*, 823). **Post** office established Sept. 7, 1880, as **Huber**; changed to Graymont Dec. 13, 1880.

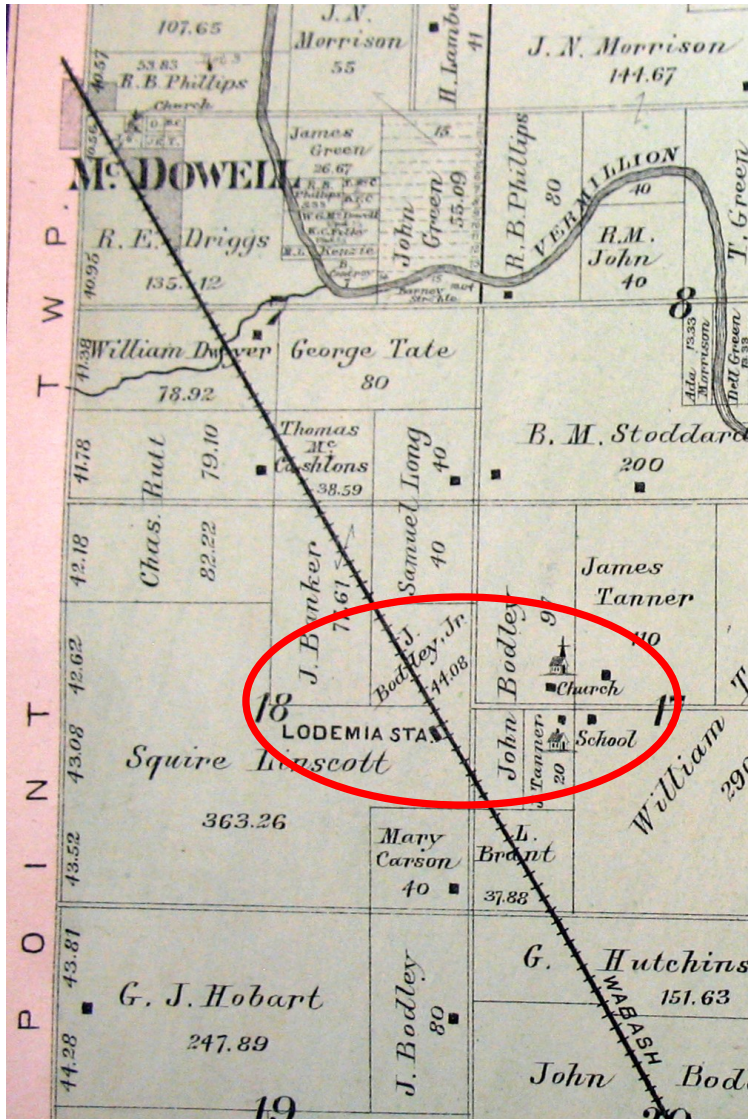


Indian Grove – Post Office 1846-1859

- Indian Grove Township and Indian Creek named after Kickapoo village
 - Village was 3 miles south of Fairbury, about 600 people
 - Moved to Oliver's Grove 1830-1832
 - Forced to leave Illinois in 1832
- Peoria & Oquawka Railroad came through in 1857
 - Village of Fairbury created in 1857
 - No longer a need for a township post office

No references to specific village. Post Office was likely in a house and a Township post office.

Lodemia – Post Office 1877-1903

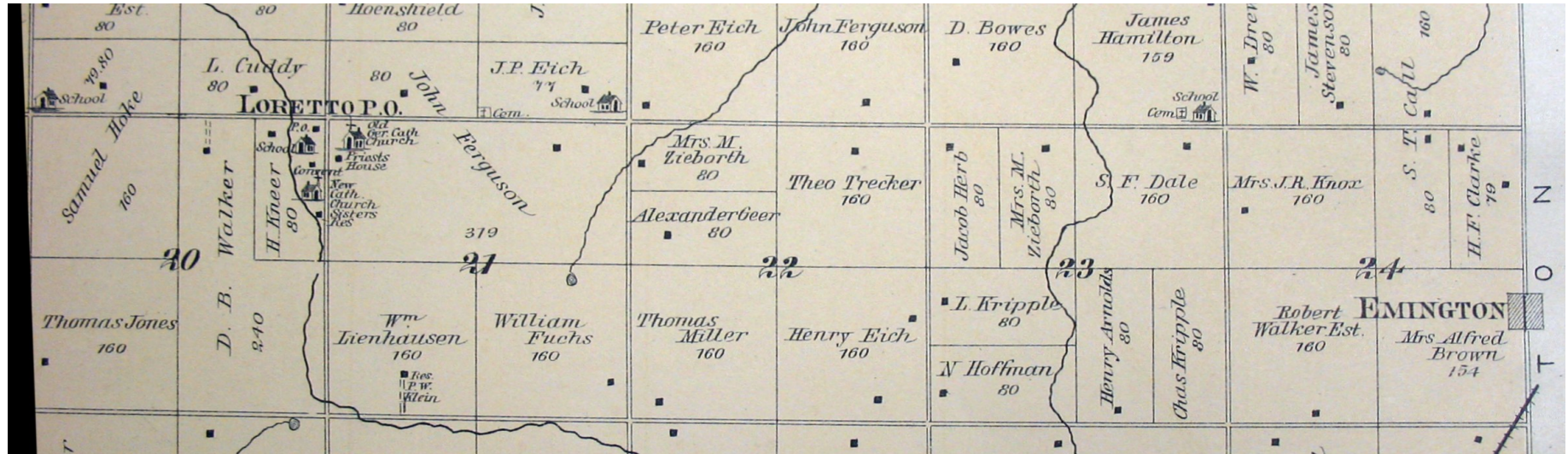


- Elevator
- Church
- Country School
- Never more than handful of houses
- Elevator closed in 1980s
- No trace left

From 1893 Atlas

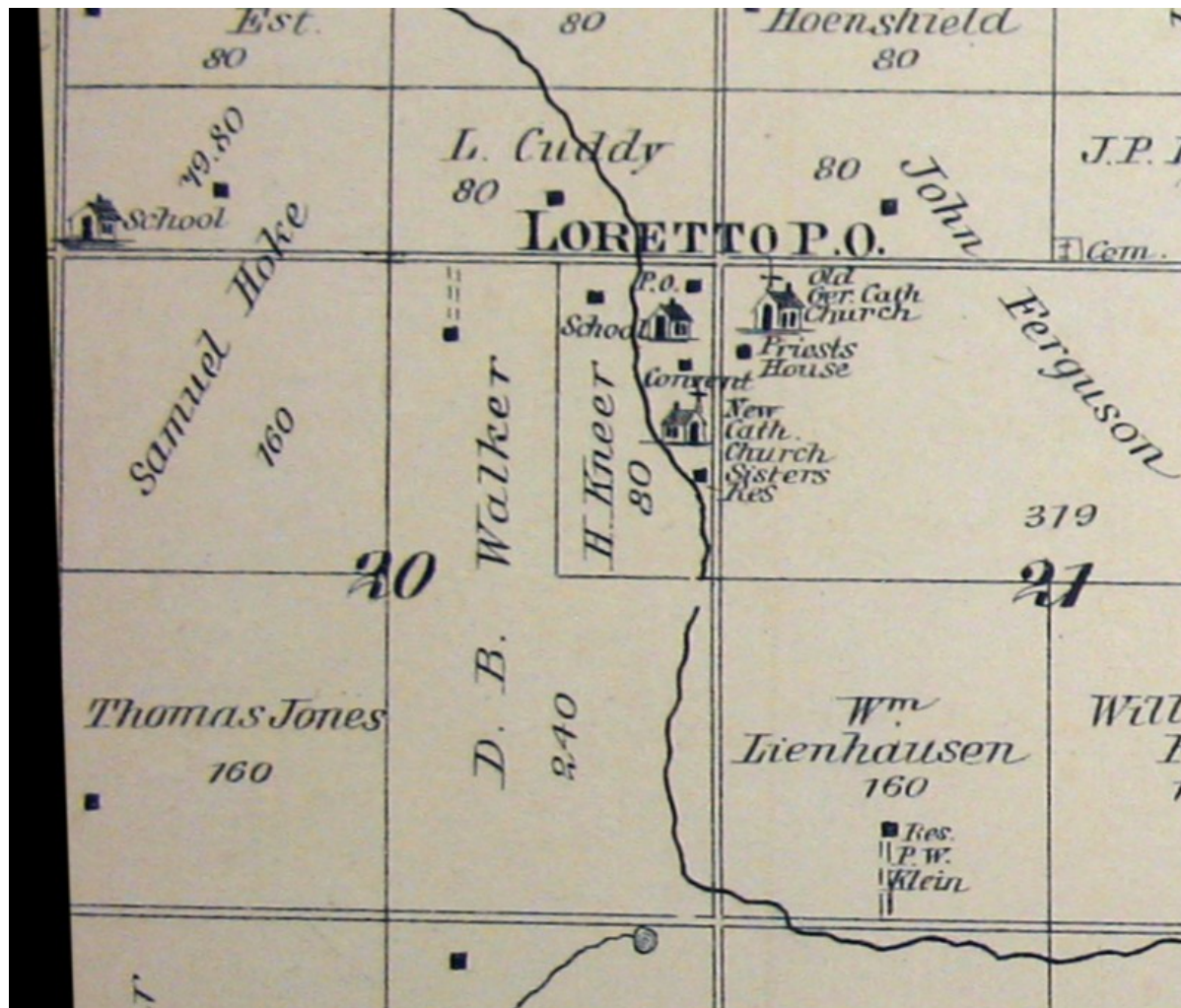
Loretto – Post Office 1892-1902

- From the 1909 Vol. 2 history book
 - The Catholics have erected a fine church, parsonage, convent and school at Loretto, in the center of the township.



From 1893 Atlas

Loretto – Post Office 1892-1902



From 1893 Atlas

Post Office is
shown &
Catholic Church

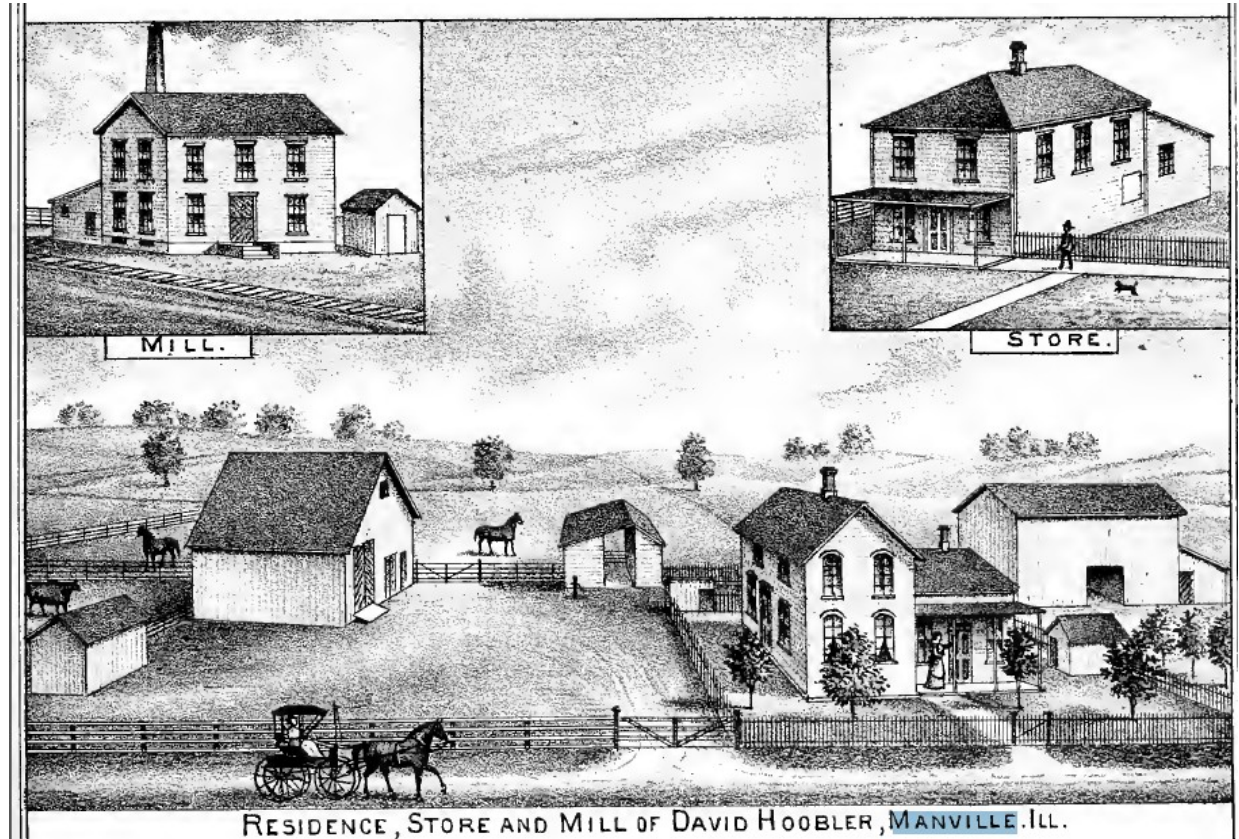
Manville - Post Office--1888

- No mention in 1878 Liv. County history book



Manville - Post Office--1888

- 1888 Liv. County history book





Manville - Post Office--1888

- 1888 Liv. County history book
- Mr. Zenas R. Jones bio mentions Methodist Church at Manville

and having expected to

Mr. Jones, after his return from the army, engaged in general merchandising at Wenona two years, then selling out purchased his present home. In his grain transactions he handles from 25,000 to 40,000 bushels per year. He is a man greatly respected by his neighbors, and with his family still remains connected with the Methodist Episcopal Church, of which he is now Deacon and Class-Leader at **Manville.**



Manville - Post Office--1888

- 1888 Liv. County history book

- Mr. Martin Allen Newman bio mentions Manville Post Office

His actual loss at the time was about \$6,000. In June, 1860, he took a mail contract between this point and Odell and to Ottawa, which he held six years, and then for seven years he kept the post-office at **Manville**, Newtown Township.



Manville - Post Office--1888

- 1909 Vol II Liv. County history book
- Manville was on Wabash RR line

Streator branch. The Chicago branch enters the county at the northeastern corner and crosses the entire eastern portion of the county. The stations along this line are Campus, Cardiff, Emington, Scovel, Saunemin, Wing, Forrest, Risk and Strawn. The Streator branch extends from Streator to Fairbury, from which point the trains use the road-bed of the T. P. and W., connecting with the main line at Forrest. The stations on this branch are **Manville**, Cornell, Rowe, Pontiac, McDowell, Lodemia, Fairbury and Forrest.



Manville - Post Office--1888

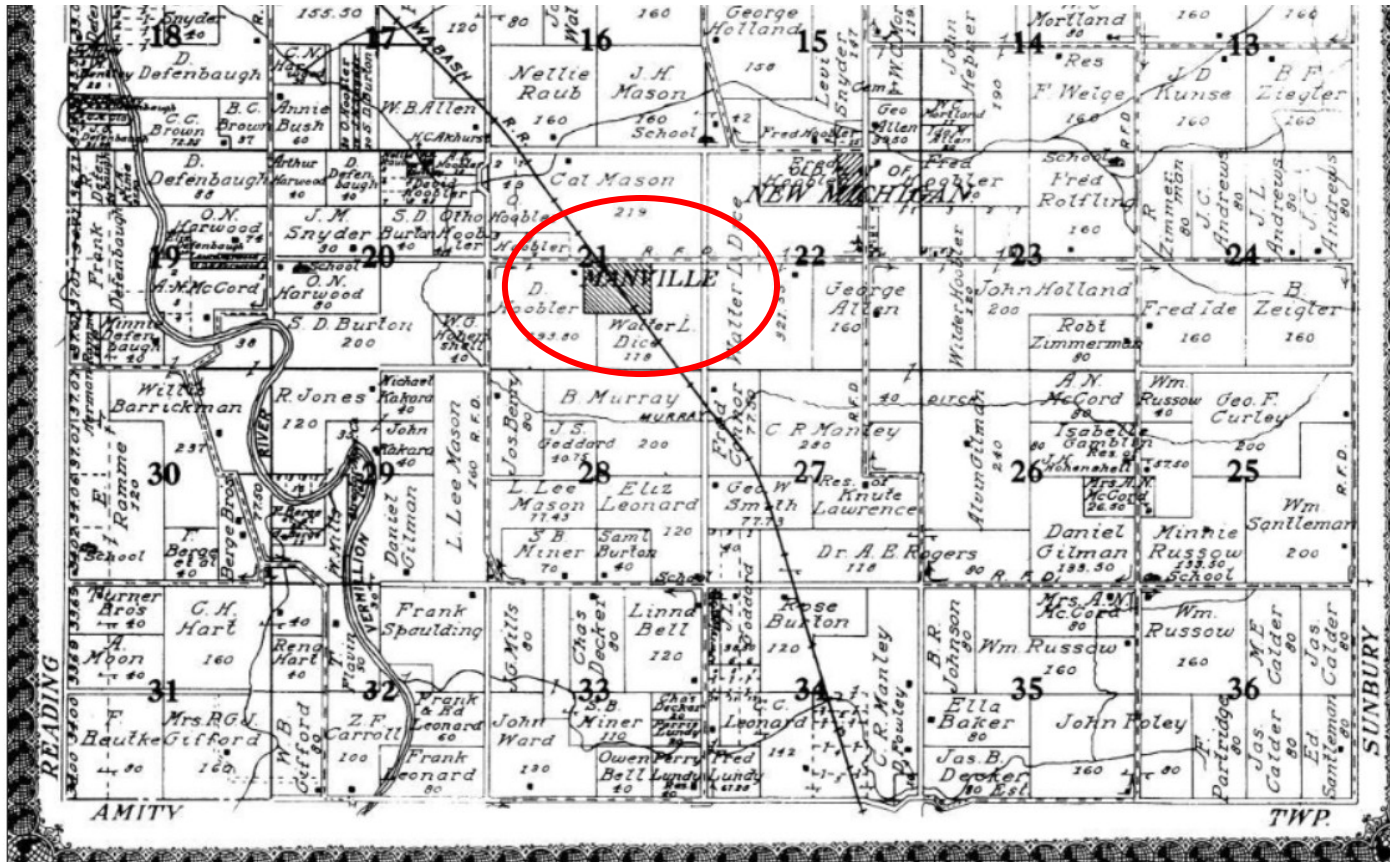
- 1909 Vol II Liv. County history book
- Founding of Manville

VILLAGE OF **MANVILLE.**

This village has had a hard time of it in the selection of a name. After the Chicago & Paducah road, now the Wabash, was completed in 1871, M. E. Collins on August 7th laid out from the southeast quarter of section 21 the townsite, and named it Collins, and built the first store building. On October 18 of the same year, David Hoobler and Jacob Kuhns platted eleven acres from the same section and named it Newtown. Chester R. Manley built the first dwelling in the village, and was the first station agent. The name of the village is now Manville. M. A. Newman moved his dwelling from the farm and David Hoobler and David Gouty moved a store room from New Michigan the same fall. An elevator was built by Hossack Brothers, of Odell. At the present time there is a general store, post-office, blacksmith shop, and a few residences in the village. The Methodist church is located here.

Manville - Post Office--1888

- 1911 Atlas

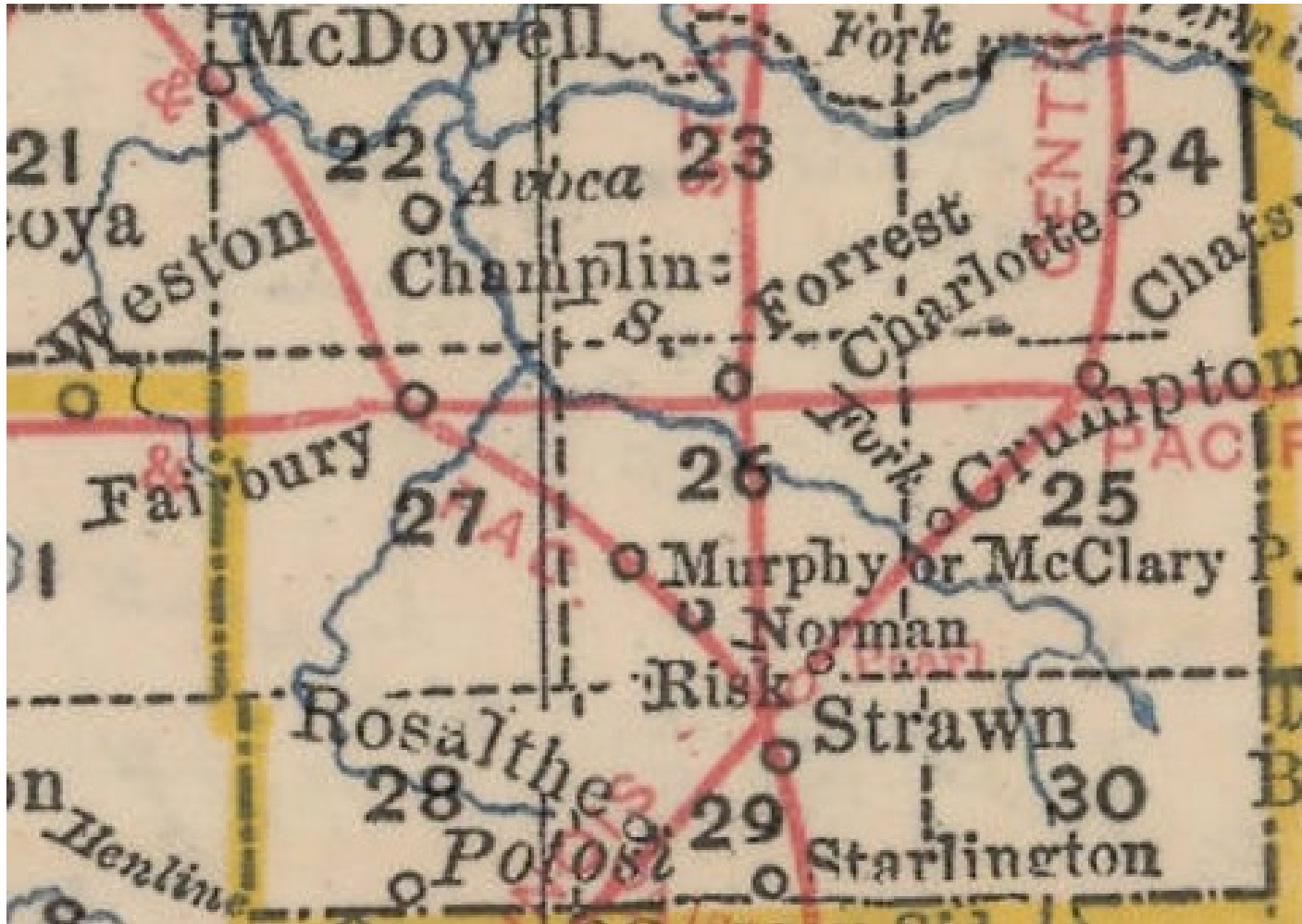




McClary - Post Office 1892-1902

- From the 1878 history book:
- Murphy Station is known as McClary post office, and is but a shipping point a few miles north of Norman.
- The Postmaster at McClary is Geo. W. Nelson, who lives on a farm close by.
- J. F. Stratton, who keeps a small store and buys grain, attends to the business of the post office.
- In Forrest Township

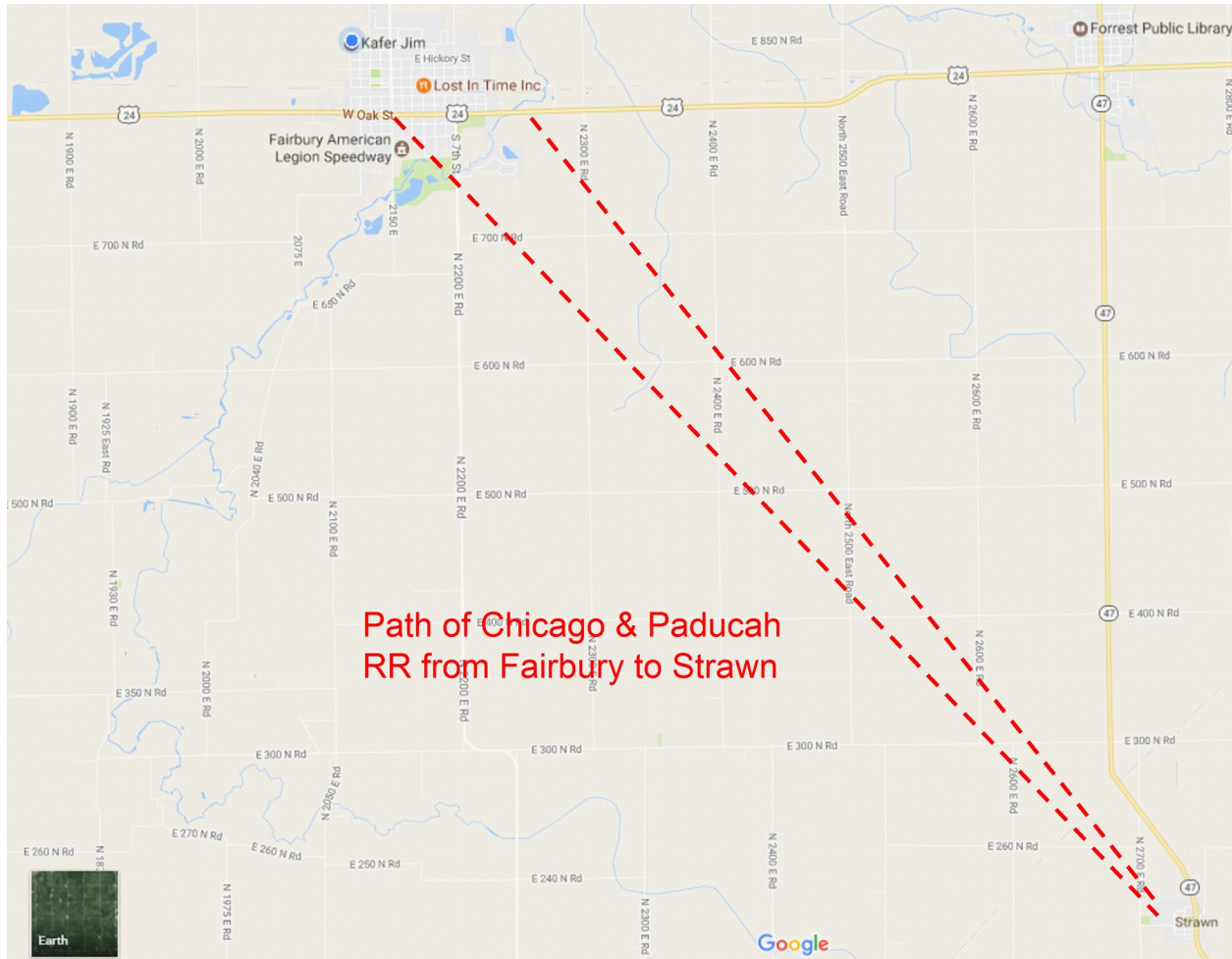
McClary - Post Office 1892-1902



1880
Railroad
map.

Fairbury to
Strawn line
removed
shortly after
this.

McClary - Post Office 1892-1902



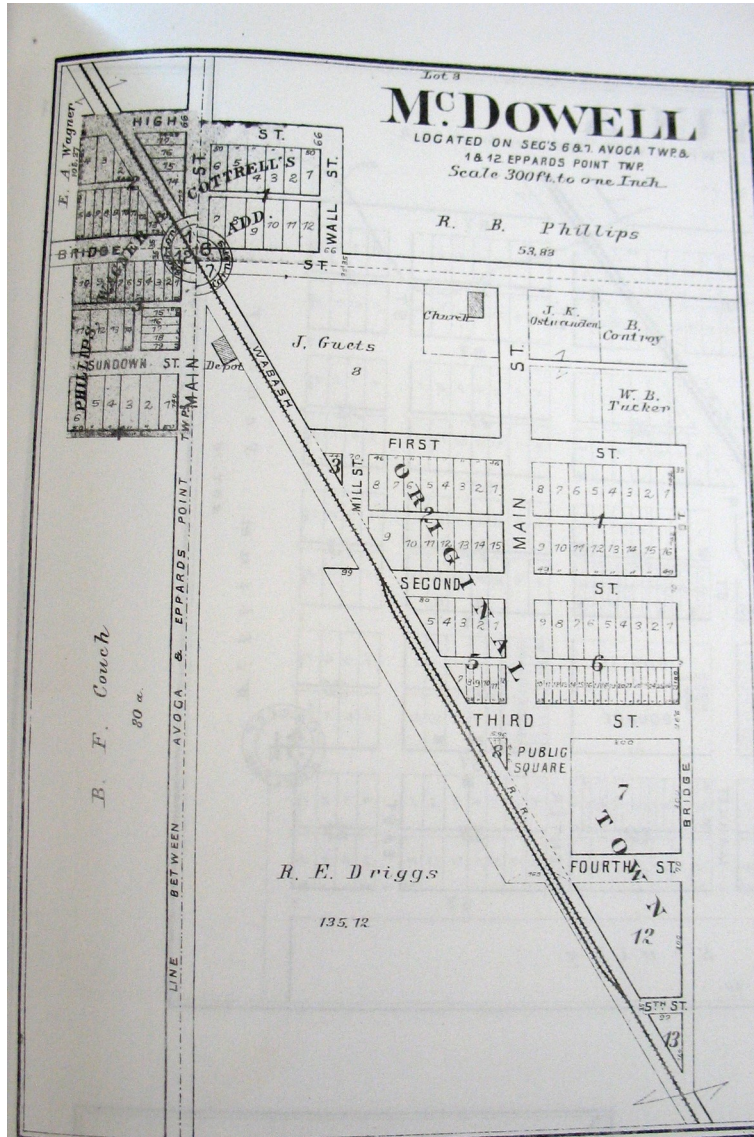
Can not find
any trace of
RR
removed
about 140
years ago.



McDowell - Post Office 1872-1918

- Founded by Judge Woodford G. McDowell
- On Chicago & Paducah Railroad
- Had working elevator and hardware store in late 1970's

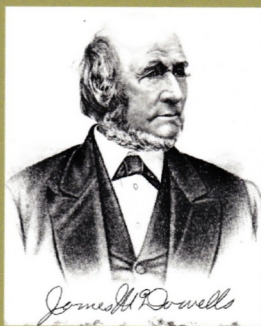
McDowell – Post Office 1872-1918



McDowell – Post Office 1872-1918

The McDowell Family of Fairbury, Illinois

Dale Maley



Available on
Amazon.com and
Walton Centre in
Fairbury

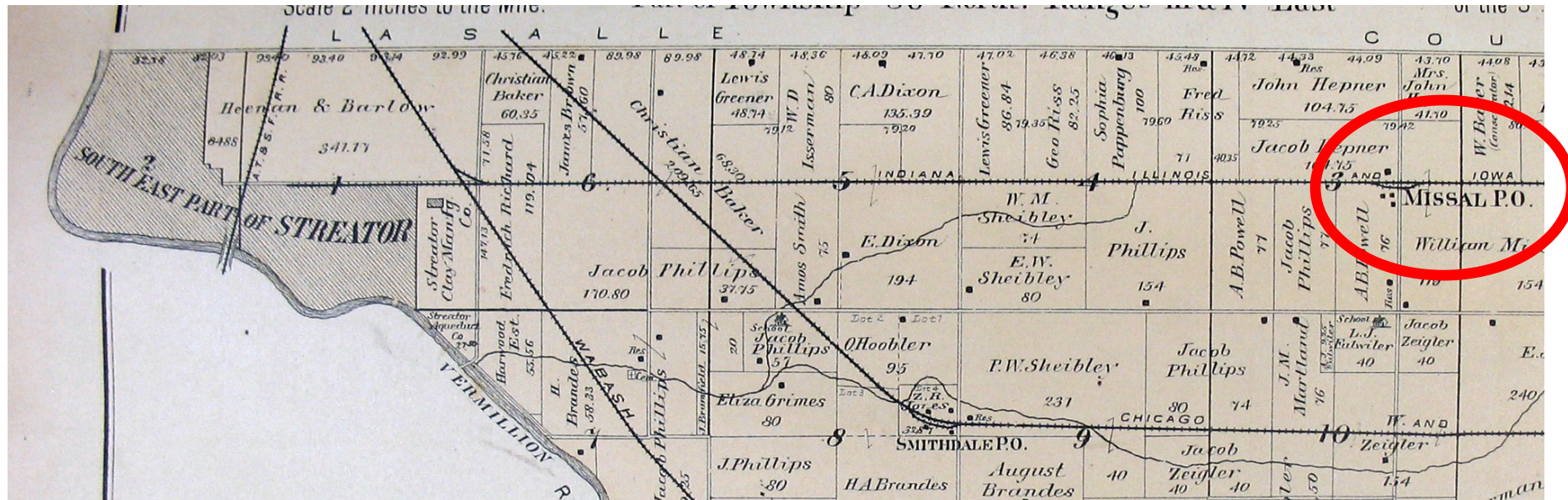
Can also borrow from
Pontiac Library or
Fairbury Dominy
Library



Missal – Post Office 1886-1921

- From the 1909 Vol. 2 history book
- The Indiana, Illinois & Iowa Railroad, a short line running from Streator, Ill., to South Bend, Ind., passes through the county from Streator to Reddick.
- Thirty miles of its line are in this county.
- Its stations are Missal, Budd, Adams, Sunbury, Dwight and Wilson.
- VILLAGE OF MISSAL.
 - Located on the Three I road. Has an elevator, general store and post-office

Missal – Post Office 1886-1921

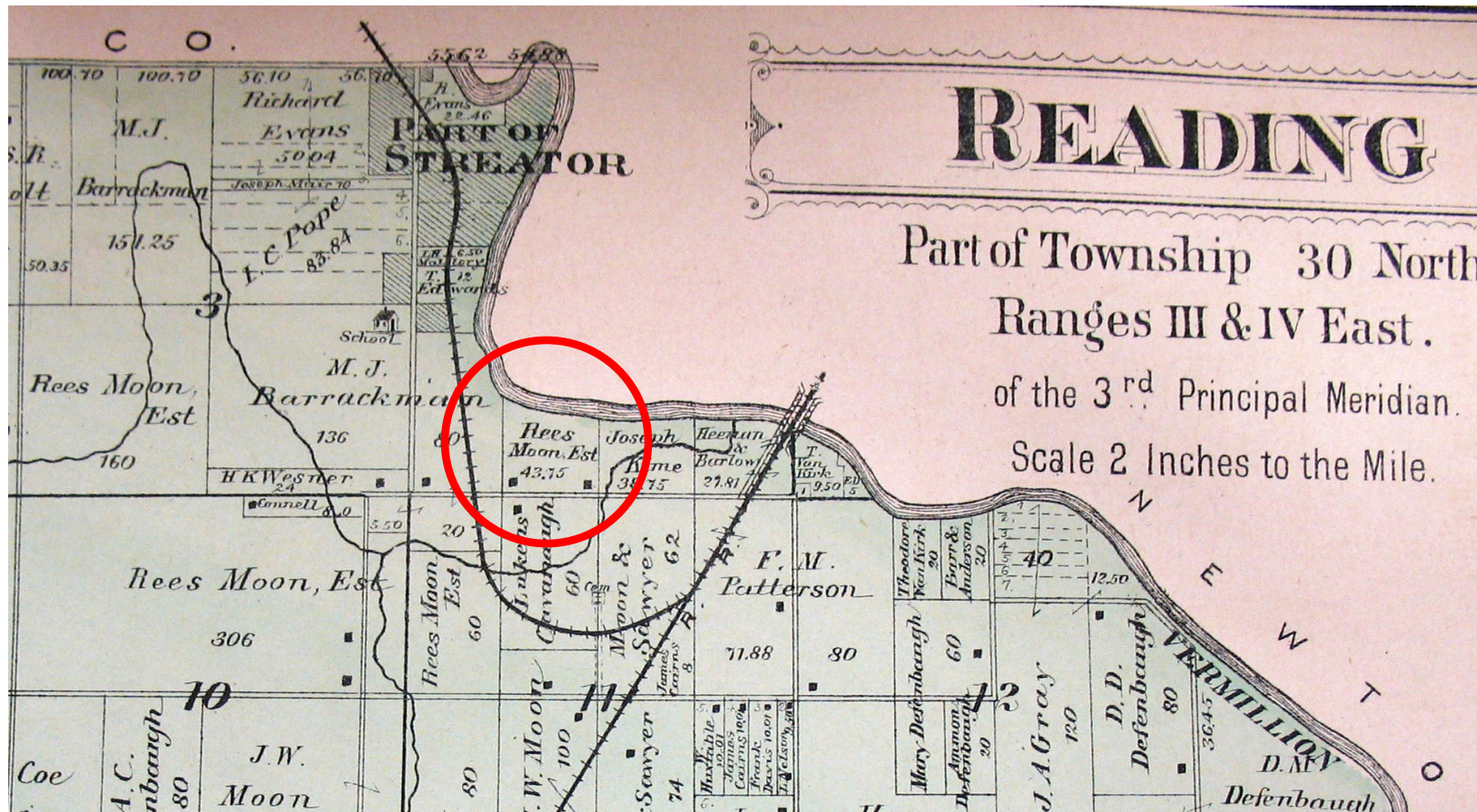




Moon's Point – Post Office 1847-1850

- From 1909 Vol. 2 history book:
- In August, 1833, Jacob Moon and his sons, Rees, Albert and Thomas, and daughter, Margaret, settled in the timber on the banks of the Vermilion river, in what is to this day known as Moon's Point.
- This was the year after the Black Hawk War. In 1839 the elder Moon was elected county treasurer. He was also a member of the first grand jury in 1838, although from the court records we are unable to learn whether or not this body transacted any business.
- Albert Moon in 1838 was elected one of the three county commissioners, and held the office for two years.

Moon's Point – Post Office 1847-1850



1893 Atlas

Munster – No Post Office

- 1878 Livingston County History Book
 - Is listed as being in Reading Township
 - Has a few biographies and taxpayers of Munster
 - Alexander Montgomery
 - J. L. Tombaugh
 - M. M. Bradford
 - J. Barton
 - Frank Kennedy
 - J. C. Koontz
 - James Welch
 - John Whalen
 - Peter White
 - Joseph B. Wolf
- Best guess--was named after Munster, Ireland





Nebraska – Post Office 1879-1882

- Flanagan was not founded until 1880 and got its post office in 1882
- Flanagan was laid out in 1880 by the Flanagan Brothers, Edward, Peter and Patrick, who owned the land on which the village is situated. The survey was made by D. J. Stanford, county surveyor.
- It is likely Nebraska Township had a post office prior to Flanagan being founded. It started in 1879 and ended in 1882, after the village was established.
- No map showing the Nebraska post office location can be found.



Nevada – Post Office 1870-1921

- Per 1976 Leader Article:
- In 1878, town of Nevada had more than 200 inhabitants
 - General Store
 - Post Office
 - Blacksmith shop
 - Boarding House

NEVADA.

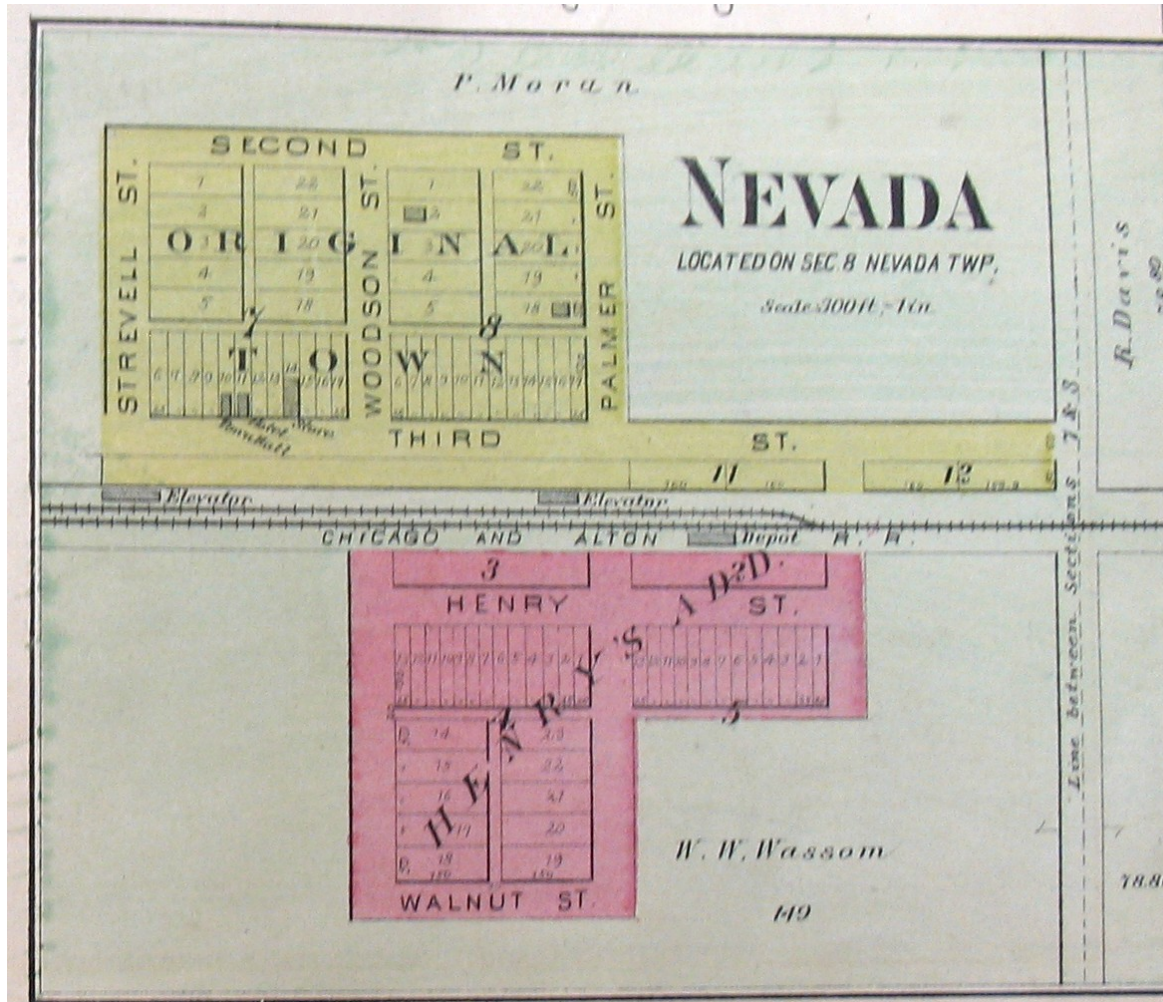
Brown, E. D., Attorney at Law.

Cavanaugh, J. A., & Co., General Merchants and Grain Dealers.

Dow, B. B., General Merchandise, Postmaster, Express and Insurance, also Agent for A. M. Wright & Co., Commission Merchants, Chicago.

1878 History Book has more info..

Nevada – Post Office 1870-1921



From 1893
Atlas

Nevada – Post Office 1870-1921



Postcard dated
1910

Item NEVADA ILLINOIS H.F. METTE CO.



New Michigan – Post Office 1849-1872

- From 1878 history book:
- In 1848, George Sardinia and Xenophon Richards, their sisters and brother-in-law Russell Nelson, made the first settlement on the prairie.
- They were from the State of Michigan. This was the year of the completion of the Michigan and Illinois Canal, and from this time forward, for several years, a good many emigrants came from Northern Ohio and Indiana and Southern Michigan by way of the canal.
- The Richards settled in the vicinity of the site of New Michigan, and named the locality after their native State.



New Michigan – Post Office 1849-1872

- The building of other railroads-the Illinois Central and the Chicago & Alton- attracted the attention of merchants, mechanics and tradesmen to other points, and in a few years New Michigan, with its institutions, lost rank.
- It continued to be a local trading point, until within a few years, when it was overshadowed by Streator; and later, when the Chicago & Paducah Railroad - was completed, and a station established within a short distance, the place, as a business point, was entirely abandoned.
- One of the churches was moved away, all of the stores were closed, the post office was abolished, and the academy having been a few years before consumed by fire, nothing remains but a few dwelling houses, as a monument of blasted hopes.



New Michigan – Post Office 1849-1872

- A sad accident occurred here on September 13, 1877, in which three young men—Isaac Runmery, Clark Cusick and James Scovelle—met their death.
- These men were employed to clean out an old well on the farm of Cyrus Cusik.
- The well was about thirty-five feet deep.
- Rummery was the first to descend by means of a rope, when within ten feet of the bottom he let go and fell.
- Cusick hastened to his relief and he also fell to the bottom, Scovelle fell before he had proceeded ten feet.
- Their death was due to foul gas. It was three hours before their bodies were
- brought to the surface.

1909 History Book

New Michigan – Post Office 1849-1872

FATAL ACCIDENT.

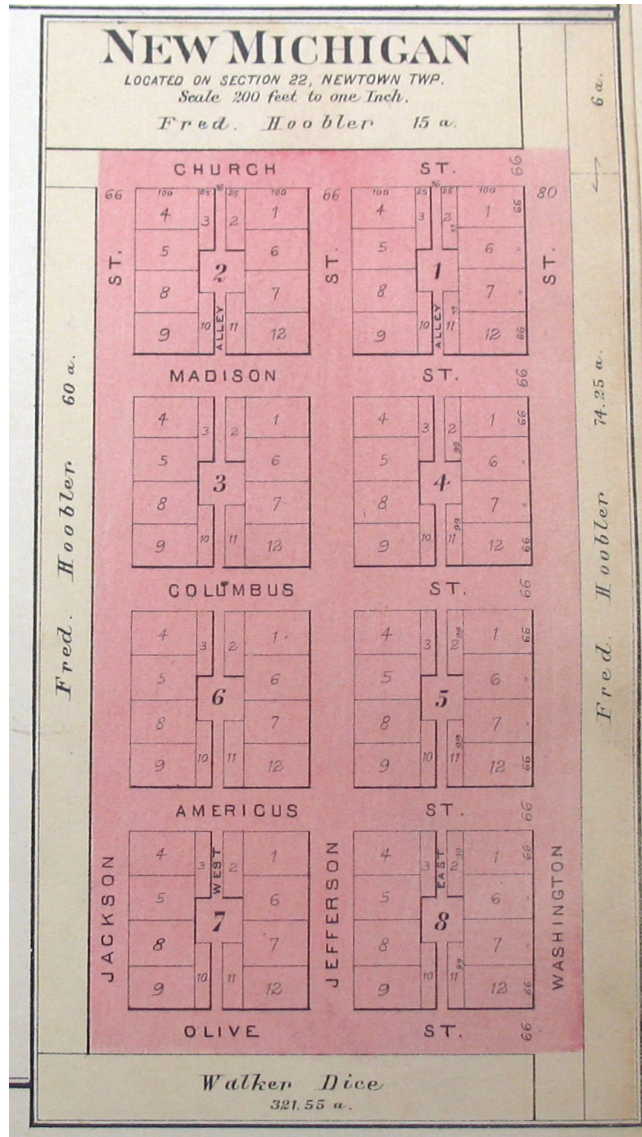
Three Men Suffocated in a Well.

The little hamlet of New Michigan, near Newtown, a few miles southeast of Streator, was the scene of a horrible accident on Thursday morning, that resulted in the instant death of three men. Years ago, before the time of railroads, New Michigan was quite an important place, and a flourishing Academy was located there, but latterly the school had gone down, and a few years ago the school house had burned down. An old well was on the premises that was occasionally used by the neighbors there, and on the morning in question they concluded to clean out the well and fix it up. Mr. Isaac N. Rumery went

it up. Mr. Isaac N. Rumery went down first, and those who were assisting noticed that he fell, when he got down near the water and Clark Cusic went down to help him. He was overcome by the foul gas, and fell down. The persons present began to fear that there was foul air in the well, but notwithstanding James Schofield, a boy of 19 years, nephew of Cusic, was lowered into the well, and he, too, became the victim of the deadly gas. There were now three men in the well, and after some time a pair of ice-hooks were secured and the body of young Schofield was recovered, but the others being under water were not so easily caught and were not taken out for about three hours.

This was a terrible calamity in that little neighborhood. Rumery was a man of about 35 years of age, formerly in business at Blackstone. He leaves a wife and two or three children and his aged parents, whose only son he was. Cusic was a manly young fellow, 22 or 23 years old, who had been married only a short time, and his tragic death must be a great shock to his young wife. The cause of the terrible accident was the accumulation of foul air in the well, which had been long tightly closed up.

Sep 15, 1887, Streator Free Press



New Michigan – Post Office 1849-1872

1878 History Book has more info.

From 1893 Atlas

MUCH NAMED —The first station south of Streator on the Paducah road is in a fair way to be buried under a cloud of names. Years ago in the days of its primitive simplicity before the whistle of the steam engine came to disturb its quiet, it was known far and wide as New Michigan. When the railroad came it left the ancient hamlet a mile away, but the people must have a station and that they called Newtown. But when Uncle Sam was asked to establish a postoffice there he refused to call it Newtown as there was another Newtown in the state. Then the wise men concluded that the postoffice should be Collins, and accordingly it has been Collins from that day to this, while the station has been Newtown. But now there is another change. The railroad officials were dissatisfied with the name Newtown, so they have changed it and on the last time card the station is put down as Manville. New Michigan, Newtown, Collins, Manville, the people of this much-named town must be in continued doubt as to where they live!

New Michigan – Post Office 1849-1872

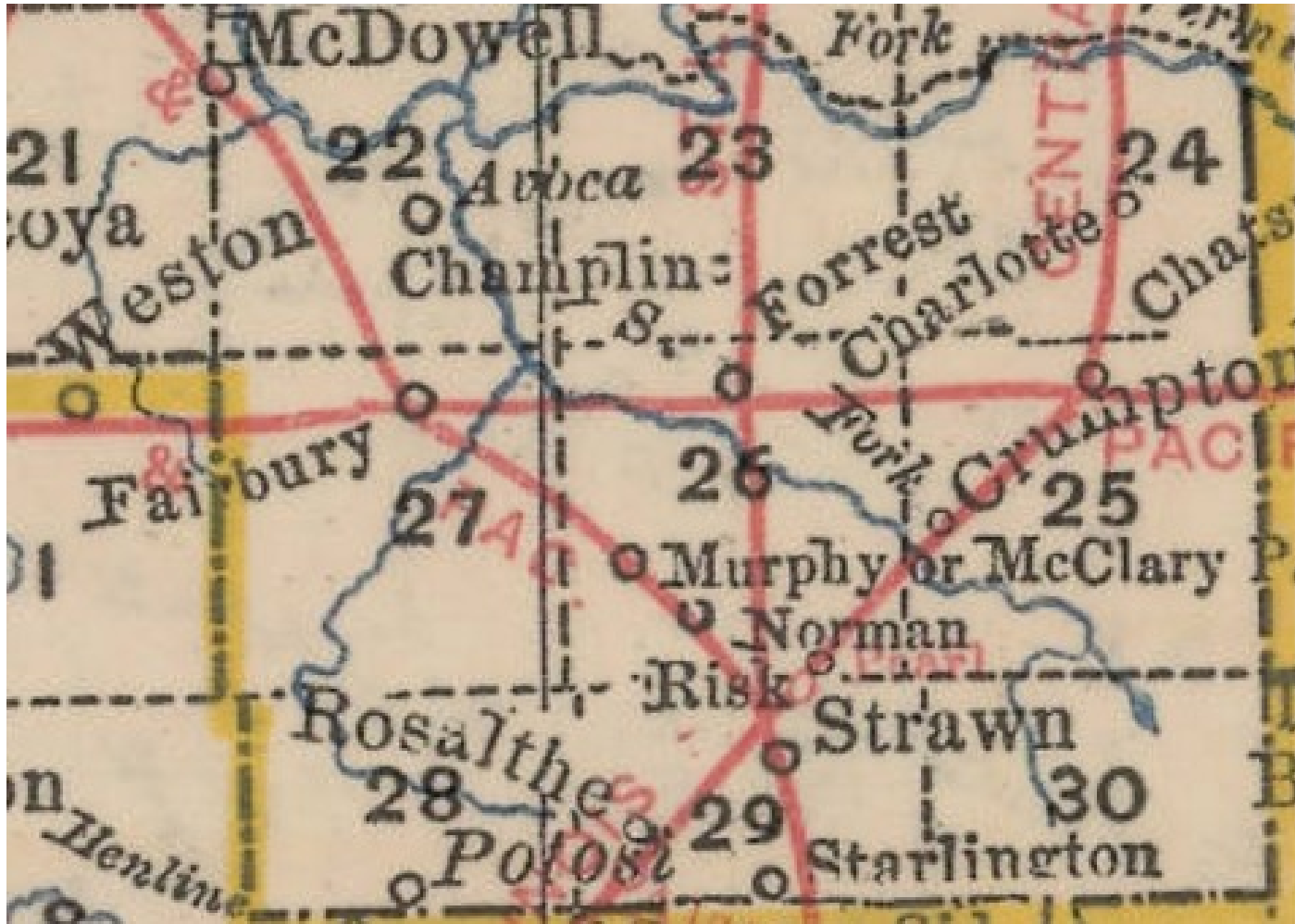
From Feb 22, 1879, Streator Free Press



Norman – Post Office 1875-1882

- From the 1878 history book:
- Murphy Station is known as McClary post office, and is but a shipping point a few miles north of Norman.
- The Postmaster at McClary is Geo. W. Nelson, who lives on a farm close by.
- J. F. Stratton, who keeps a small store and buys grain, attends to the business of the post office.
- In Forrest Township

Norman – Post Office 1875-1882



1880
Railroad
map.

Fairbury to
Strawn line
removed
shortly after
this.



Norman – Post Office 1875-1882

- From 1878 history book Business Directory:

Cording, Albert, Dry Goods and Groceries, Norman



Oakdale – Post Office 1864-1871

- Found in 1870 book with listing of all Post Offices (Oakdale was 1 word vs. 2)

Can not find any more info.



Ocoya – Post Office 1860-1922

- At the close of the war.. the village of Ocoya again comes into notice.
- Roadnight, who had, as has previously been stated, purchased 40 acres and made a switch, built a small warehouse and depot, and leased them to D. S. Shireman and E. M. Babbitt, who continued the grain business with varying results, for several years.
- The village was all this time in its primitive condition, and making no progress.
- Indeed, it could not yet properly be called a village, for no plat had been surveyed. nor had any move been made toward laying out a town.
- In 1869, Duff &Cowan purchased the land, and surveyed and platted the ground, giving it the old name, "Ocoya." They failed in business shortly after, however., and no plat of the town was ever recorded.



Ocoya – Post Office 1860-1922

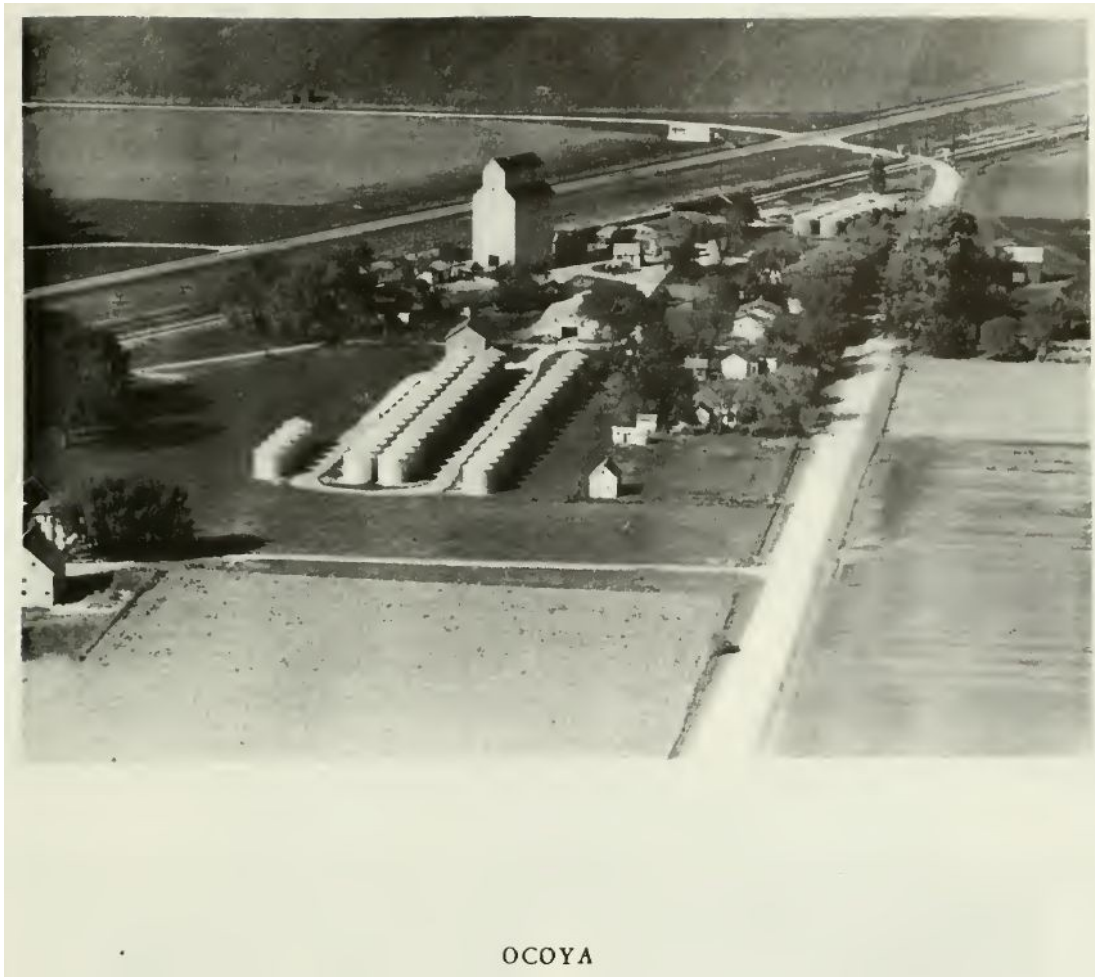
- John A. Bogie, of Paris, Bourbon County, Ky., an extensive owner of land adjoining the town, laid off "Bogie's first addition to Ocoya, April 30, 1870.
- The record of this plat is the only recorded instrument relating to the town of Ocoya.
- On the failure of Duff & Cowan, Reuben Macy purchased the 40 acres, originally intended for a town site, and in 1871 built an elevator.
- He was associated with C. N. Coe, of Cayuga, a short time, but, purchasing his interest, for several years managed a store, of which he became the owner.

Ocoya – Post Office 1860-1922

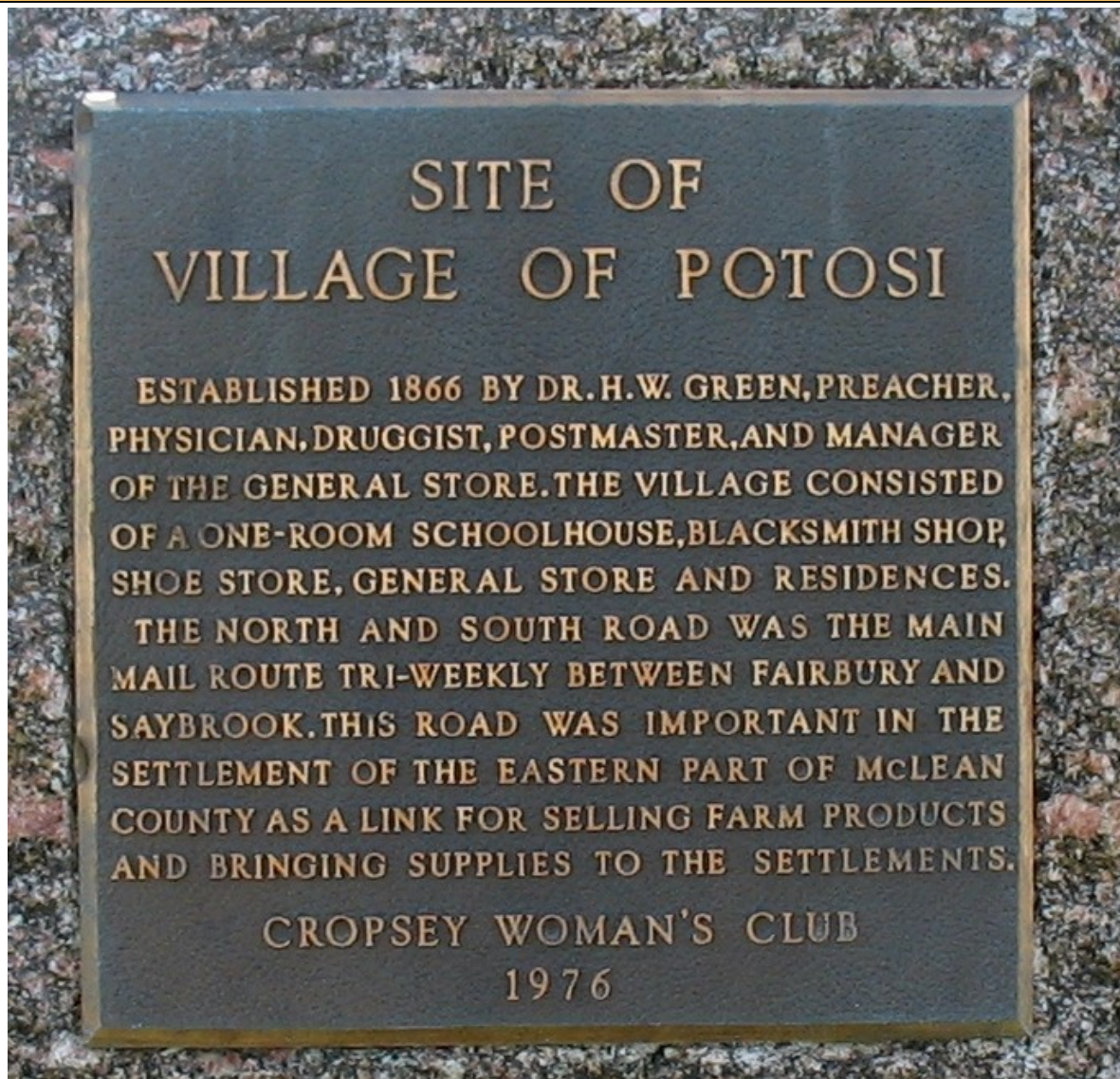


1984 Movie
“Grandview
USA”

Ocoya – Post Office 1860-1922



1955 Arial
photo



**Potosi –
Post Office
1868-1880**



Reading – Post Office 1850-1921

- Excepting the county seat, this is the oldest laid out town in the county, having been surveyed and platted previous to 1851.
- In the year named, it was surveyed by Franklin Oliver for David Boyle and Caleb Mathis, from the southeast quarter of Section 15.
- Scarcely a prettier location for a town could be found in the whole county than this. The ground is high and dry; and being on the bank of a fine little stream of water, good drainage is rendered easy.
- The first house built in the village was put up by L. S. Latham.
- Dr. Follet built an office near the same time.



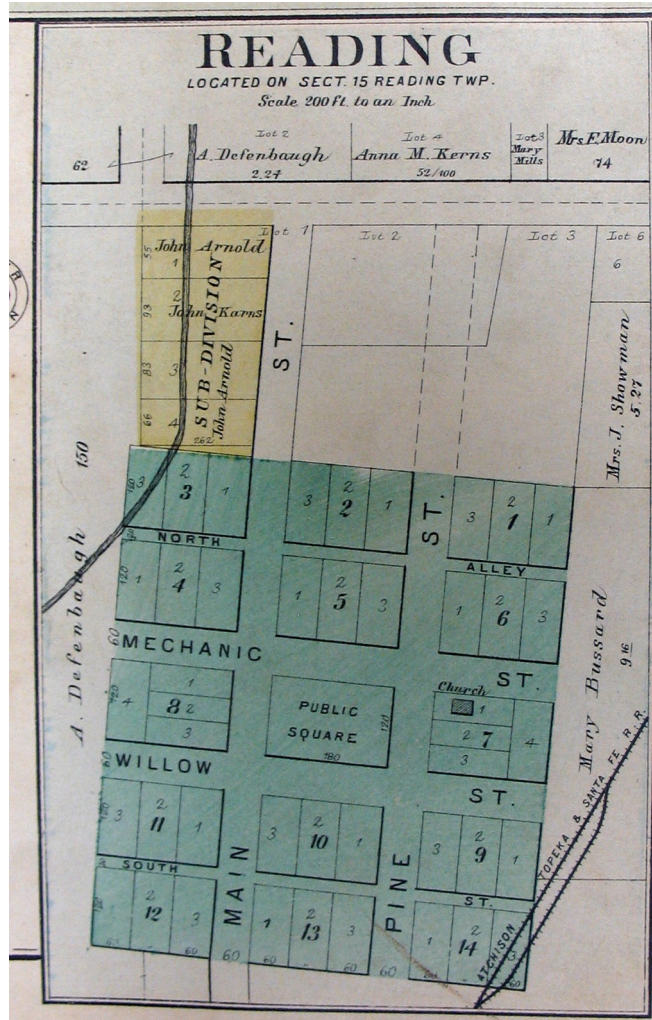
Reading – Post Office 1850-1921

- Prior to the establishment of Reading, the people in all of this section of country went to Lacon and Ottawa to do their trading; and, consequently, this enterprise, in connection with the coal banks, drew a large amount of business to this point.
- The town grew rapidly, and bid fair to be a place of importance; but railroads, built soon after in other parts of the country, drew business and capital away from the place, and Reading was left to languish.
- The town is still a pleasant little place to live in, but the greatness that was anticipated for it has all vanished.

1878 history book has more info

Reading – Post Office 1850-1921

From 1893 Atlas





Reddick – Post Office – Yes

- The village of Reddick was platted in 1880 and incorporated in 1890 with a population of 400.
- By 1895, business enterprises included a tile factory, two grain elevators, a millinery and dressmaker shop, a general store, a livery stable, two hotels, lumber and coal businesses, a barber shop, blacksmith, and others.
- Two railroads were constructed about 1879, forming an intersection where Reddick now stands. The Wabash Railroad went from Chicago to [St. Louis](#).
- The second railroad ran east and west and was called the "Three I" or Illinois, Indiana, and Iowa Railroad, later the [New York Central](#).
- At this railroad intersection, a business center for the rich agricultural community was developed. Because the portion of land south of the cross-tracks seemed to be best due to drainage, the new settlers began building there. This placed Reddick in Norton Township in Kankakee County.



Reddick – Post Office - Yes

- Reddick still exists with small portion in Livingston County. (Rest in Kankakee Co.)
- Population 163
- If definition of ghost town is no post office, then Reddick not ghost town
- But if founding population was 400, and today it is 163, is it a ghost town?



Richmond – Post Office - None

- The reader will not be troubled to wade through statistics, as to this item, as the only thing to record is its history, and that of an ancient nature.
- Still it is history, and not fiction, that we write; for, though the reader may never have heard of it, the town of Richmond did exist.
- Not only so, but it was the rival of Pontiac, and but for a very small circumstance would doubtless have been by today the most flourishing city in the county.
- Richmond was located two miles east of Pontiac.
- It was regularly laid out and platted, by Franklin Oliver, County Surveyor, for Henry Jones and Henry Loveless, June 23, 1851.



Richmond – Post Office - None

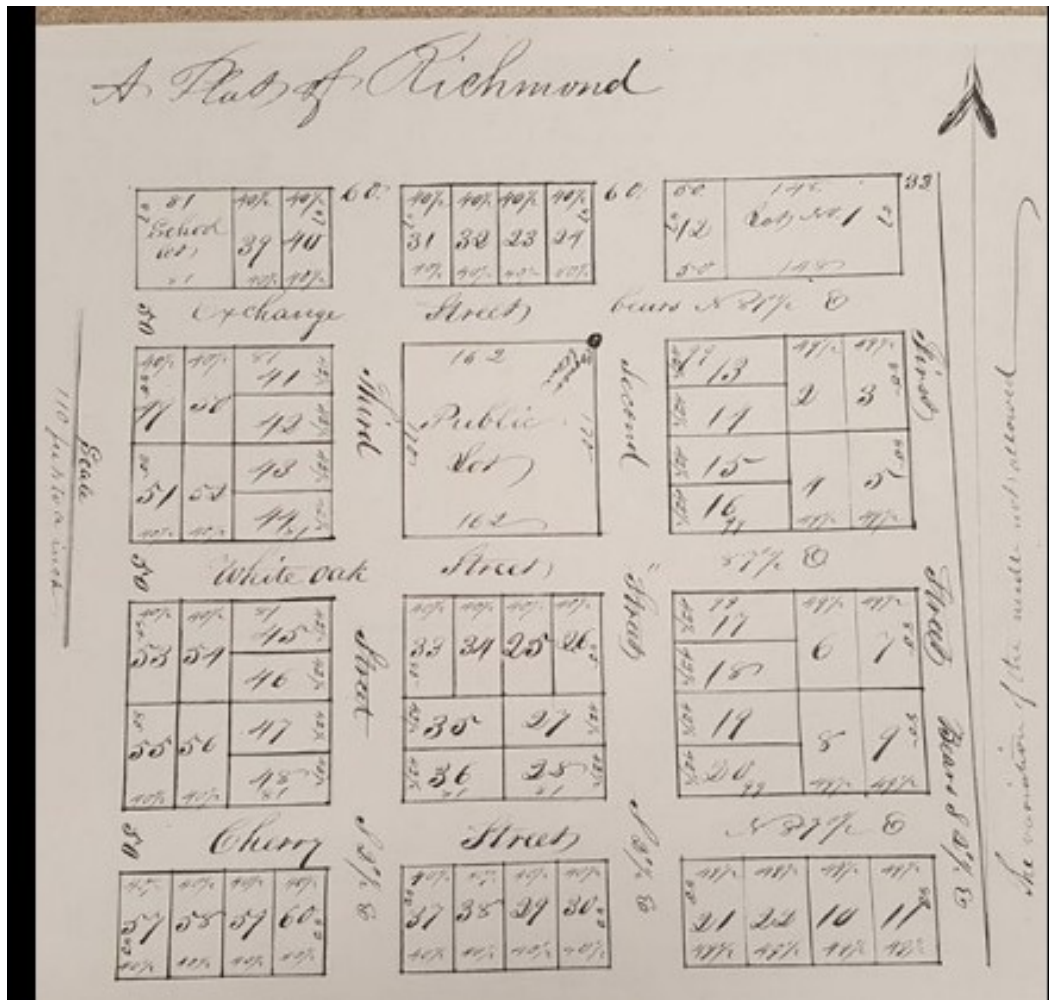
- Rumors of a railroad through this section were afloat; and that being a nice location for a town, and that point in the river being a good one for a railroad crossing, it was not doubted by its friends that this would be the favored point.

- Stores and shops and a school house soon sprang into existence; lots were disposed of for good prices; dwellings were built, and everything indicated a rising town.

- But alas for human hopes and desires, the road lacked just two miles of passing through the historic village, and its bright anticipations burst like a bubble and vanished almost as quickly.

Some of the buildings were moved to Pontiac, some did service afterward as stables and granaries, and the only monument that now exists of the once sprightly little village is an open space just south of Philip Rollings' house.

Richmond – Post Office - None



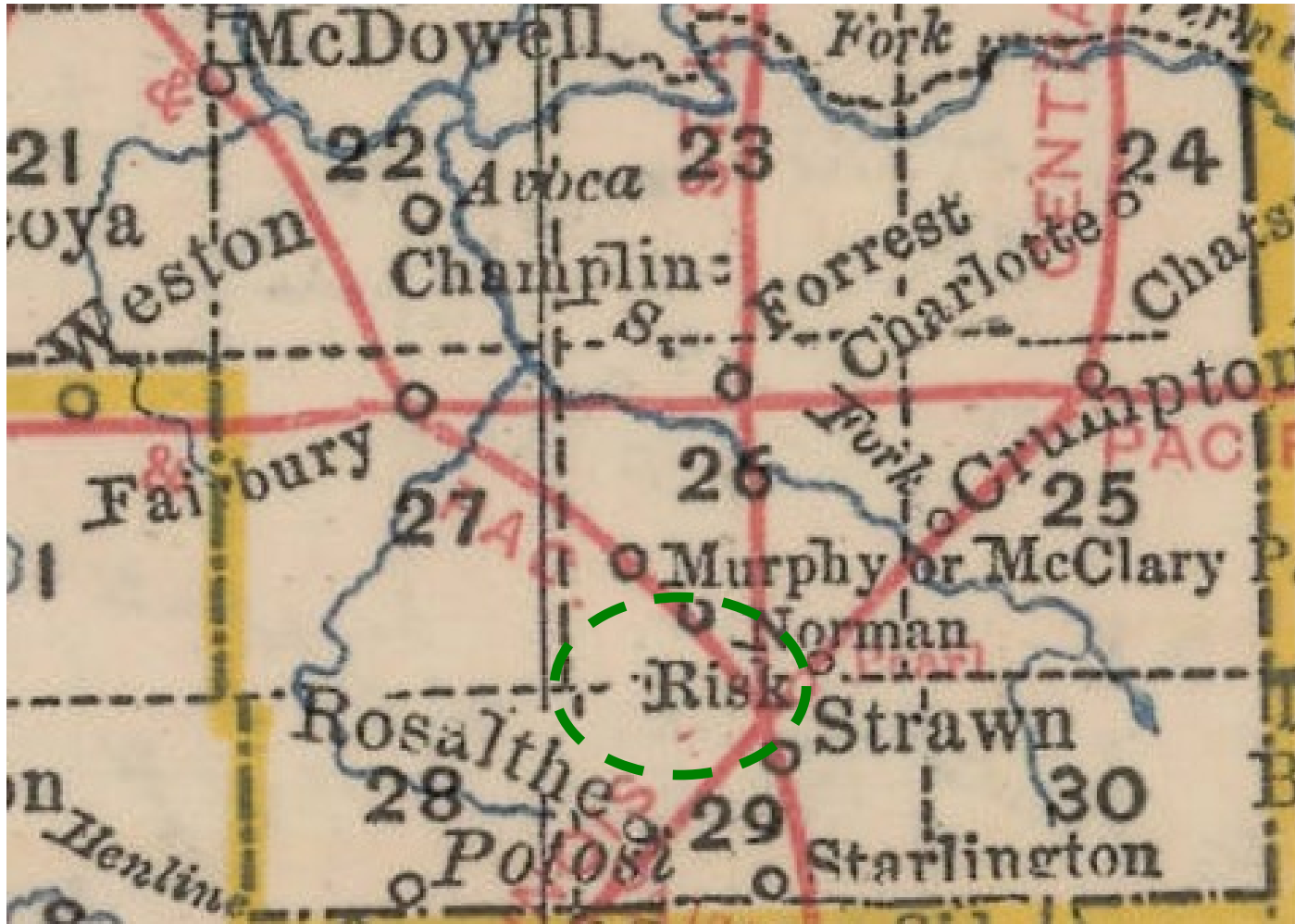
Near the Catholic cemetery.



Risk – Post Office – 1881-1918

- The Wabash railroad has the largest mileage in the county, sixty-five and one-half miles, of which thirty-six and one-half miles are on the Chicago branch and twenty-nine miles on the Streator branch.
- The Chicago branch enters the county at the northeastern corner and crosses the entire eastern portion of the county.
- The stations along this line are Campus, Cardiff, Emington, Scovel, Saunemin, Wing, Forrest, Risk and Strawn.

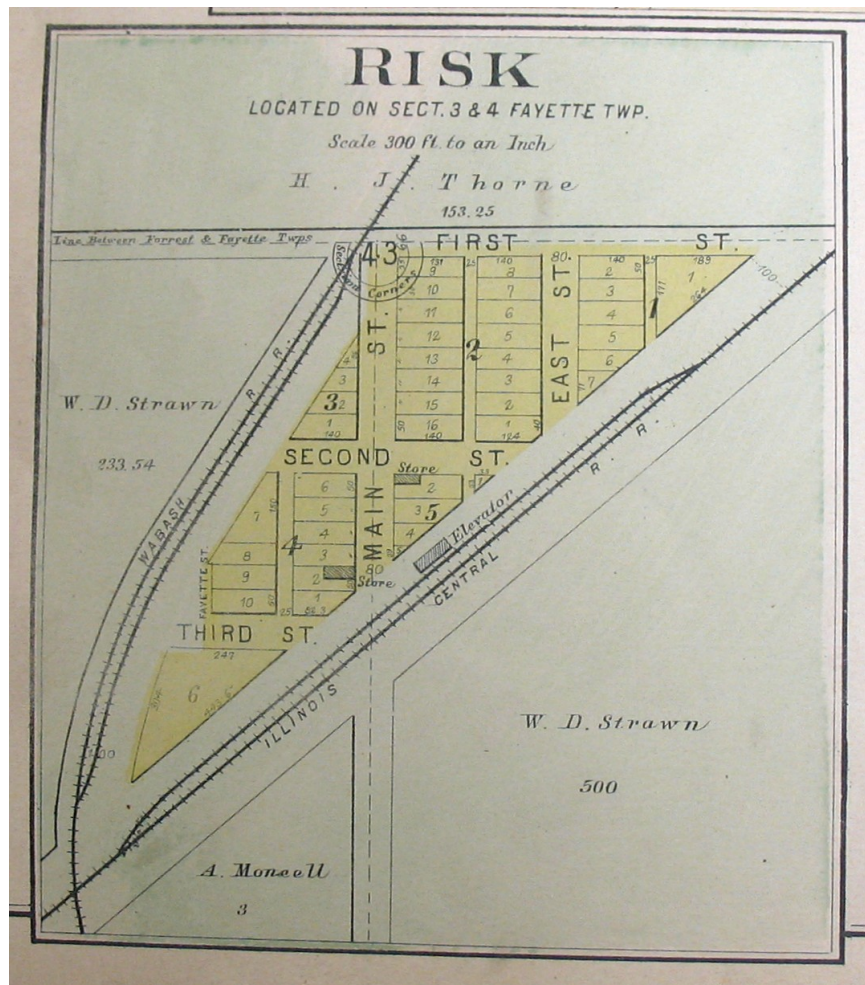
Risk – Post Office – 1881-1918



1880
Railroad
map.

Fairbury to
Strawn line
removed
shortly after
this.

Risk – Post Office – 1881-1918



From 1893
Atlas



Rosealthe – Post Office – 1880-1886

- Very difficult to perform historical research because of 2 spellings:
 - Rosalthe or Rosealthe

- Was located just northeast of Cropsey

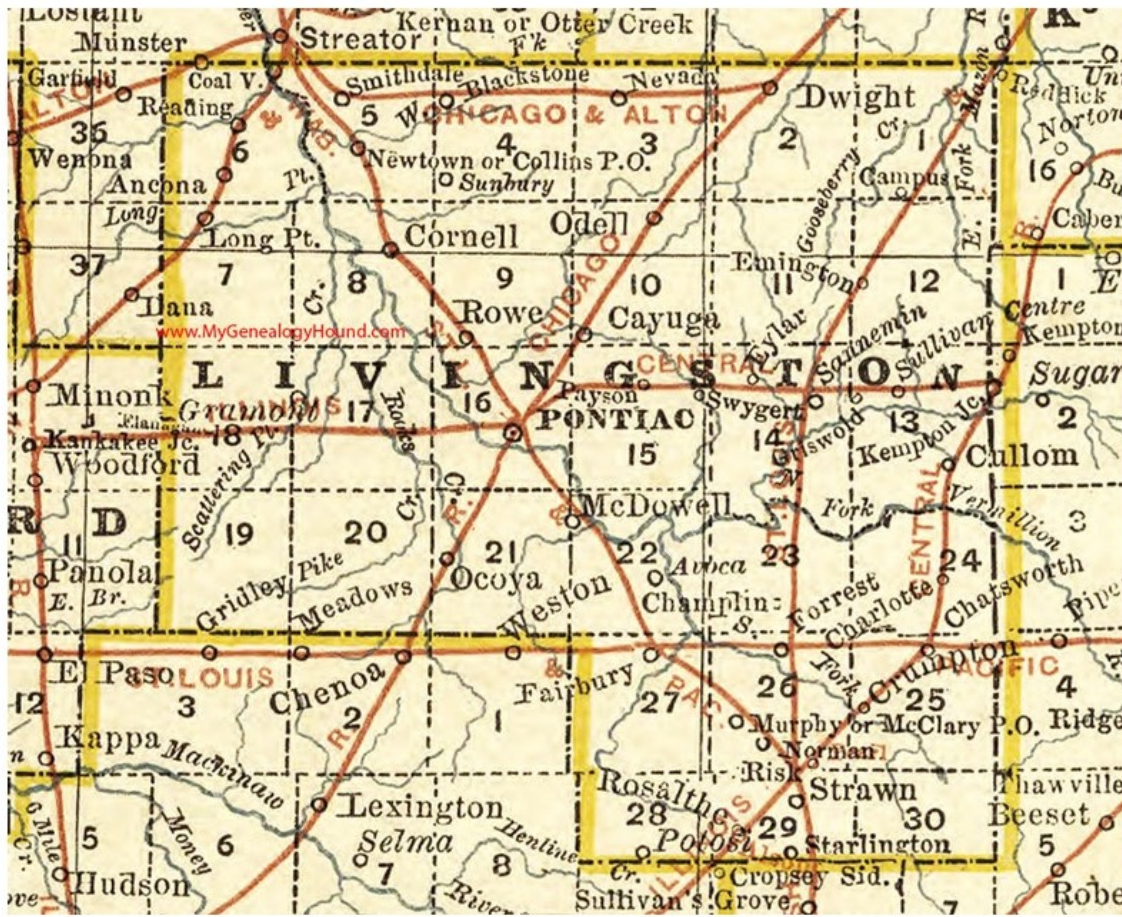


Rosealthe – Post Office – 1880-1886

- The Illinois Central has sixty-two miles of its road in Livingston County.
 - The Kankakee branch, or Middle Division, extends through the center of the county from east to west, thirty-six miles.
 - The stations on this line are Flanagan, Graymont, Rooks Creek, Pontiac, Swygert, Rugby, Eylar, Spires, Scovel and Griswold.
 - This line joins the Bloomington branch at Kempton Junction, near the county line.
- The Bloomington branch runs in a southwesterly direction through the southeastern part of the county, twenty-six miles.
- The stations in the county on this line are Cullom, Charlotte, Chatsworth, Risk and Rosalthe.

Rosealthe – Post Office – 1880-1886

Livingston County, Illinois 1881 Map



Rosealthe – Post Office – 1880-1886



Very
Rare !!



Rooks Creek – Post Office – 1847-1880

- Valentine Darnall and Frederick Rook were the first white men to locate in the territory now embraced in Livingston County.
- Darnall erected his cabin in the southern part of the timber known as Indian Grove, in the Fall of 1829, soon after the Kickapoo Indians had exchanged this locality for Oliver's Grove.
- At or about the time that Darnall made his settlement at Indian Grove, Frederick Rook located five miles west of Pontiac, on the creek which still hears his name; and, soon after, Isaac Jordan selected his location.
- Rook removed to Missouri at an early day, and the exact date of his settlement here cannot be obtained.
- These three men. with their families, were the only white persons, in this locality, who saw the "great snow" which fell in the winter of 1830-31.



Rooks Creek – Post Office – 1847-1880

- No description of a village in history books
- Likely it was a Township post office
- There was a church, but torn down in 2015.
- Cemetery still remains.

Rookside – Post Office – 1896-1898

EBOOK - FREE

Get this book in print ▼



★★★★★
0 Reviews
Write review

United States Official Postal Guide ...,
Volume 1898

Result 16 of 17 in this book for rookside - < Previous Next > - View:

Rollins, Autauga.....Ala	Roneyspoint, Ohio.W. Va
Rollins, Paulding.....Ga	Rongis, Fremont.....Wyo
Rollins, Lake.....Ill	Ronkonkoma , Suffolk N. Y
Rollins, Burke.....N. C	Ronks, Lancaster.....Pa
Rollins, Williamsburg....S. C	Rono , Perry.....Ind
Rollins, Madison....Tenn	Roodhouse , Greene. Ill
Rollins, Mason....W. Va	Rookins, Saint Clair...Mo
Rollins Fork, King George Va	Rookside , Livingston...Ill
Rollinsville, Gilpin..Colo	Rooney, Carter.....Ky
Rollo, DeKalb.....Ill	Roop, Washoe.....Nev
Rolly, Sabine.....La	Roop, Emmons....N. Dak
Romney, Braxton..W. Va	Roopville, Carroll.....Ga
Rolphs, Queen Anne...Md	Roosagap, Sullivan..N. Y
Rolyat, Bowie.....Tex	Roost, Bell.....Ky
Roma , Starr.....Tex	Rootcreek, Milwaukee.Wis
Roman, Augusta.....Va	Roots, Jackson.....Mich
Romance, White.....Ark	Roots, Lincoln....Oregon
Romance, Ozark.....Mo	Roots Siding, Butler.Iowa
Romance, Vernon.....Wis	Rootstown , Portage..Ohio

Waldensian Colony at Odel

1898 book shows a post office in Rookside, Livingston County, Ill.

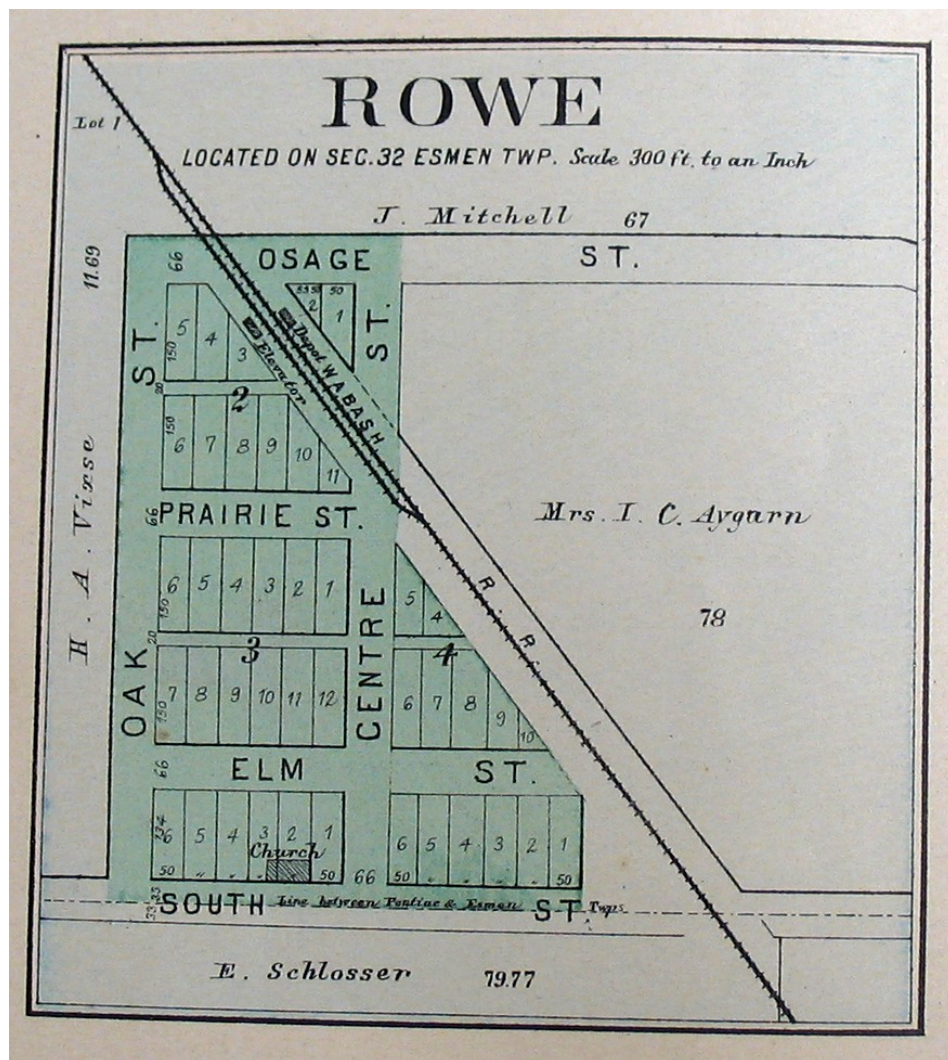
Unable to find a location



Rowe – Post Office – 1872-1919

- On the completion of the Chicago & Paducah Railroad, among the many little towns which sprang up along the line was this.
- It was surveyed and platted by A. C. Huetson, from the southeast quarter of Section 32, for James Rowe, the proprietor, July 24, 1871.
- As will readily be guessed, the name was for the originator of the scheme.
- The project has been scarcely as successful as many who lived in the vicinity hoped, though it has proved a great convenience to shippers of grain and stock, and as a minor trading place; and the road has been quite an accommodation as a means of communication with the county seat.
- The village contains at this time about fifty inhabitants, one store, one grain elevator and one blacksmith shop.
- J. M. Rowe still owns the plat of the town, though he has removed to the town of Sheridan in this State.

Rowe – Post Office – 1872-1919



From
1893
Atlas



Rugby – Post Office – 1880-1918

- 1909 Vol. 2 history book
- The Illinois Central has sixty-two miles of its road in Livingston County.
- The Kankakee branch, or Middle Division, extends through the center of the county from east to west, thirty-six miles.
- The stations on this line are Flanagan, Graymont, Rooks Creek, Pontiac, Swygert, Rugby, Eylar, Spires, Scovel and Griswold
- Rugby is located on the Illinois Central road, in Owego Township, eight miles east of Pontiac.
- It has but one store, and a grain elevator.

Rugby – Post Office – 1880-1918

Pontiac Sentinel March 24, 1880



Rugby.

The Owego siding on Section 12, Owego, has been named "Rugby" by the citizens in honor of the school in one of Dickens' works. A post office has been established and a daily mail will be delivered there as soon as the K., P. & W. road is prepared to run a mail train. A store building is now under way and the place promises to grow right along.

Best as I can tell Dickens never wrote anything with a school named Rugby. Another famous author, Thomas Hughes, wrote a book called "Tom Brown's School Days", which does a school named Rugby in it. So did the Sentinel reporter get the wrong author name, or did the Rugby citizens have the wrong author name?

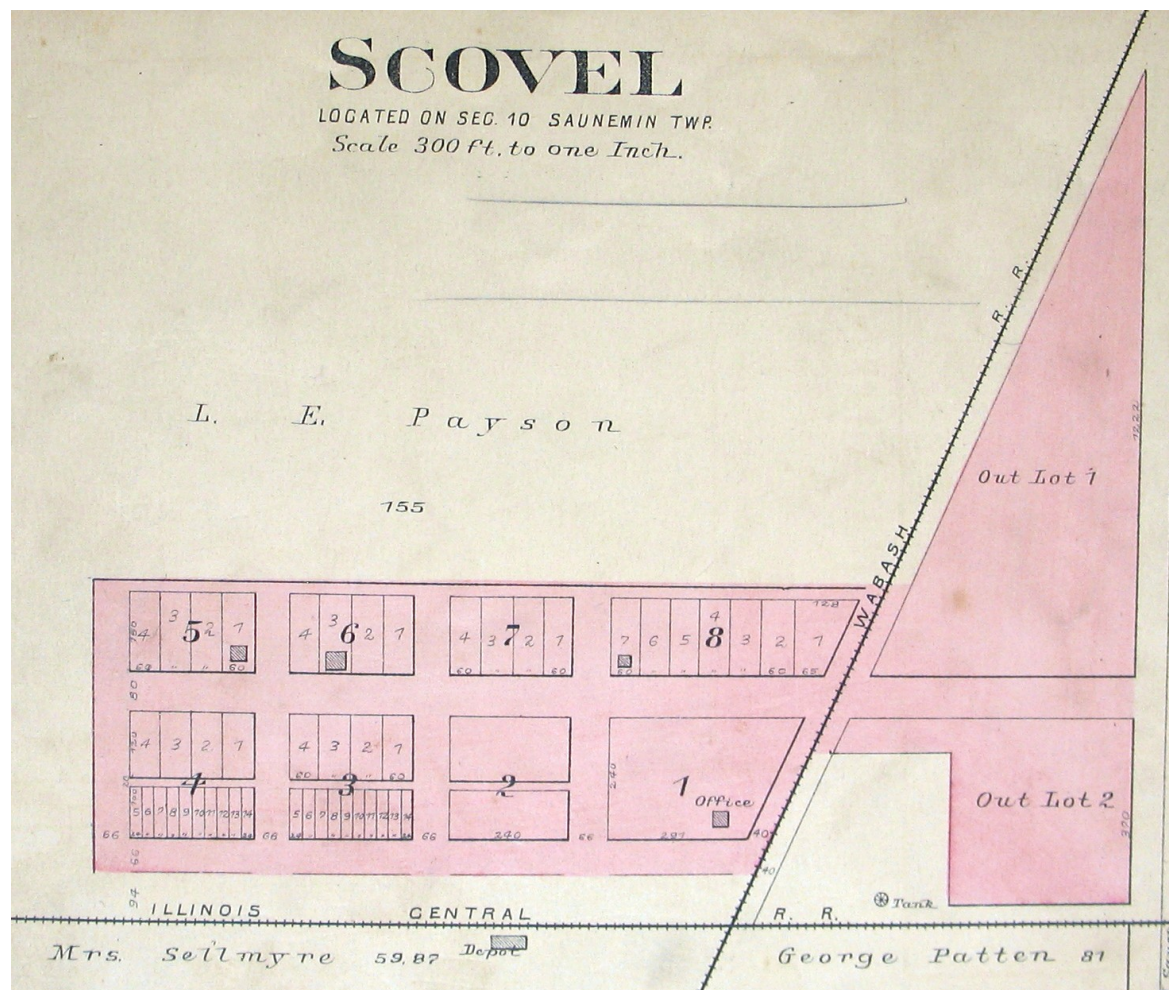
I have a Rugby research file.



Scovel – Post Office – 1886-1905

- The Wabash railroad has the largest mileage in the county, sixty-five and one-half miles, of which thirty-six and one-half miles are on the Chicago branch and twenty-nine miles on the Streator branch.
- The Chicago branch enters the county at the northeastern corner and crosses the entire eastern portion of the county.
- The stations along this line are Campus, Cardiff, Emington, Scovel, Saunemin, Wing, Forrest, Risk and Strawn.
- Scovel is at the junction of the Illinois Central and Wabash railroads.
- It is located one mile north of Saunemin. It has a grain elevator, but no stores.

Scovel – Post Office – 1886-1905



From
1893
Atlas



Smithdale – Post Office – 1870-1901

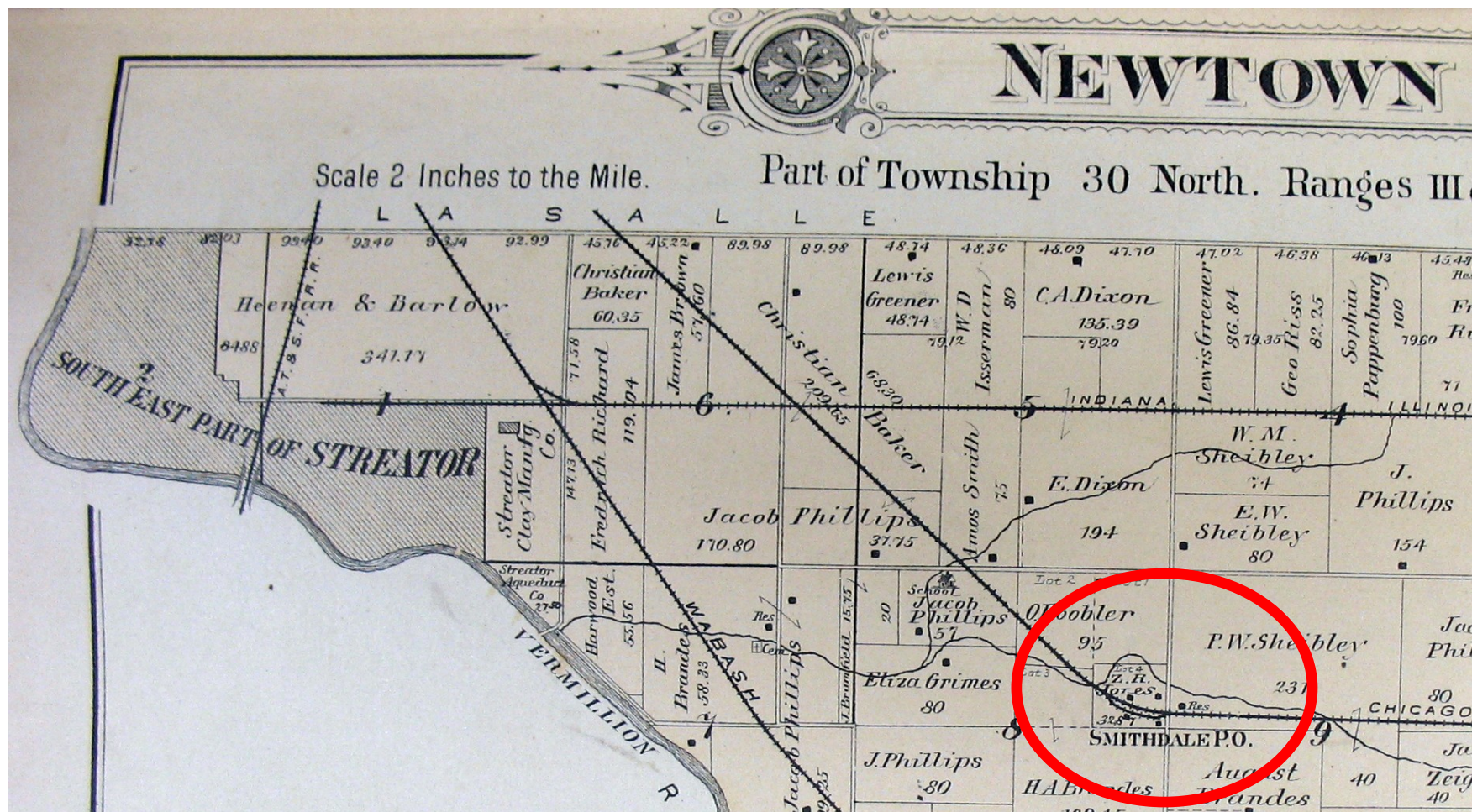
- From 1878 history book.....
- This is only a station on the western extension of the Chicago & Alton Railroad.
- Wm. Shepard laid out a town here in 1870.
- The plat consists of thirty-two acres, from Section 8, but has never been improved, and the stationhouse is all that exists to indicate the presence of a town.

SMITHDALE.

Hoobler, John D., Farmer and Stock
Buyer and Shipper; P. O. Smithdale.

Jones, Zenas R., Farmer and Grain
Buyer. P. O. Smithdale.

Smithdale – Post Office – 1870-1901



1893 Atlas



Sullivan Centre – Post Office – 1869-1879

- From the 1878 history book.....
- The first blacksmith was Anson Ackley, who opened a shop at his place in 1870, and did blacksmithing for the whole neighborhood.
- A post office was established in the same year, and also a store, both of which were the first of their kind in the township.
- The store was kept by Edward Ward, who was likewise Postmaster.
- The post office is called Sullivan Center, after the hamlet in which it is located, that is of the same name.
- The little village at present contains two stores, kept by Abel M. Morrill and Edwin B. Morrill cousins; one blacksmith shop, kept by Frank Carry; one wagon shop, by J. J. Brown, and a shoe shop, by M. Davis; and had one physician, Z. L. Kay.
- The place has never been incorporated, nor has it yet risen to the dignity of a village.

More info in 1878 history book.



Sullivan Centre – Post Office – 1869-1879

SULLIVAN CENTER.

Cary, Frank, Blacksmithing and General Jobbing.

Morrill, A. M., Dealer in Groceries, Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots, Shoes, Hats, Caps, etc.

From 1878 history book.



Sunbury – Post Office – 1840-1873

- From the 1878 history book.....Esmen Township....
- The next settler was Wm. K. Brown.
- He was a mail contractor, and carried the bags from Ottawa to Pontiac and Indian Grove.
- He located in the northwestern part of the township, and made this his stopping place, and soon after obtained an order for establishing the Sunbury post-office at his house.
- Though in Esmen Township, it was north of the Creek, and was at first called by the name which the adjoining township now bears.
- What few mails were then brought to this part of the country, were, of course, brought on horseback; and, though postage was three to five times what it is now, and mails were carried for a very small salary, the postal service was not, in this part of the country, self-sustaining.
- The post-boy, with his fleet horse and shrill horn to apprise the community of his approach, has become almost legendary, his place having been usurped by the steam horse and his fiery driver.



Sunbury – Post Office – 1840-1873

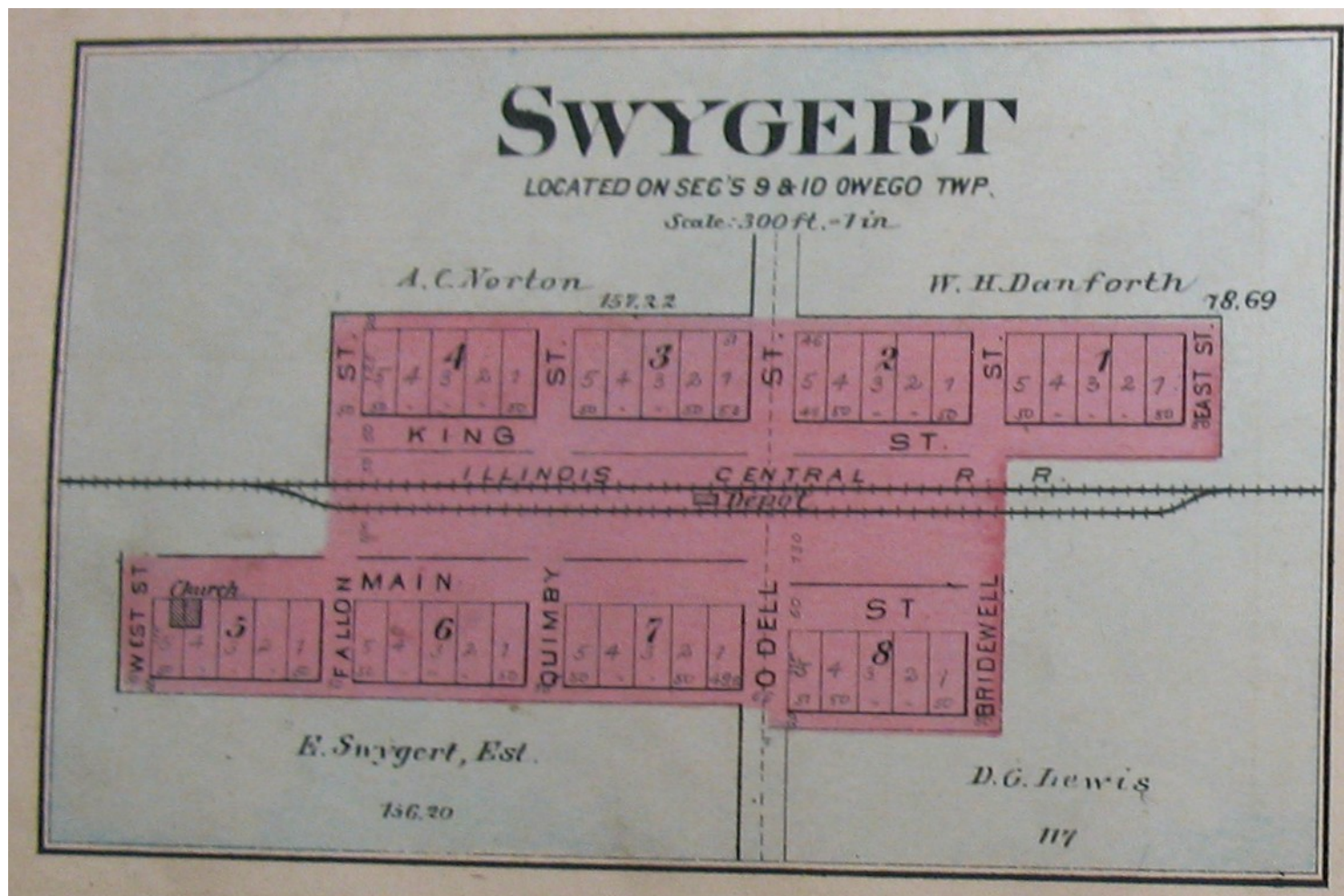
- From the 1878 history book.....Esmen Township....
- The first post office for the benefit of this community, like the first school, was established in Esmen Township, was called Sunbury, and kept at the Brown residence.
- It was afterward moved to Andrew Sprague's, and has since had a migratory existence, like all country post offices, going from one house to another, as different persons could be found who were willing to be bothered with it.
- At last, when the village of Blackstone was established, the post office was moved there; and, as its name was changed, it can hardly now be said to exist.



Swygert – Post Office – 1880-1916

- From the 1909 Vol. 2 history book...
- VILLAGE OF SWYGERT.
 - Swygert Is located on the Illinois Central road, in Owego Township, five miles east of Pontiac.
 - Besides a general store, it has a grain elevator.
 - The Owego Baptist church is located here.
- The Illinois Central has sixty-two miles of its road in Livingston County. The Kankakee branch, or Middle Division, extends through the center of the county from east to west, thirty-six miles.
- The stations on this line are Flanagan, Graymont, Rooks Creek, Pontiac, Swygert, Rugby, Eylar, Spires, Scovel and Griswold.

Swygert – Post Office – 1880-1916





Waldo – Post Office – 1900-1903

- From 1909 Vol. 2 history book.....
- Owing to the sparse settlement in some parts of the county, the township organization in some cases included what is now several townships.
- This was the case in Waldo until 1861, when it was detached from Nebraska Township, and has since been a separate organization.
- Scattering Creek is the only stream of water in the township.
- It rises near the center, flows northward through Nebraska, Rooks Creek and Amity Townships to the Vermilion river.
- Until 1857, the entire surface of the township was unbroken prairie, level as a floor. There were many large sloughs in the township at that time, but all have been drained.

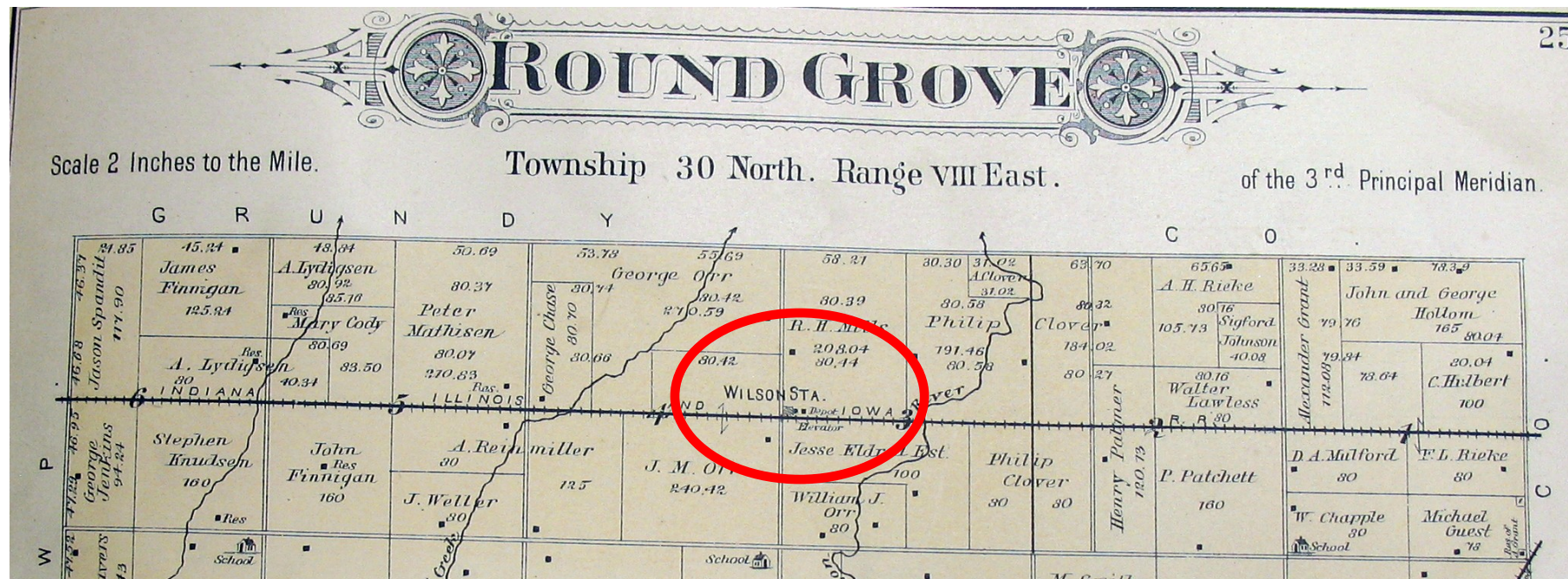


Waldo – Post Office – 1900-1903

- From 1909 Vol. 2 history book.....
- The early settlers purchased land from the Illinois Central Railroad Company, whose grant included the western tier of townships in this county.
- The price was generally \$14 per acre, although in after years it was reduced to \$6 an acre.
- The hard times of 1858-59 retarded immigration somewhat to this part of the county, but the richness of the soil was a strong attraction, and in the '60s settlers came in rapidly.

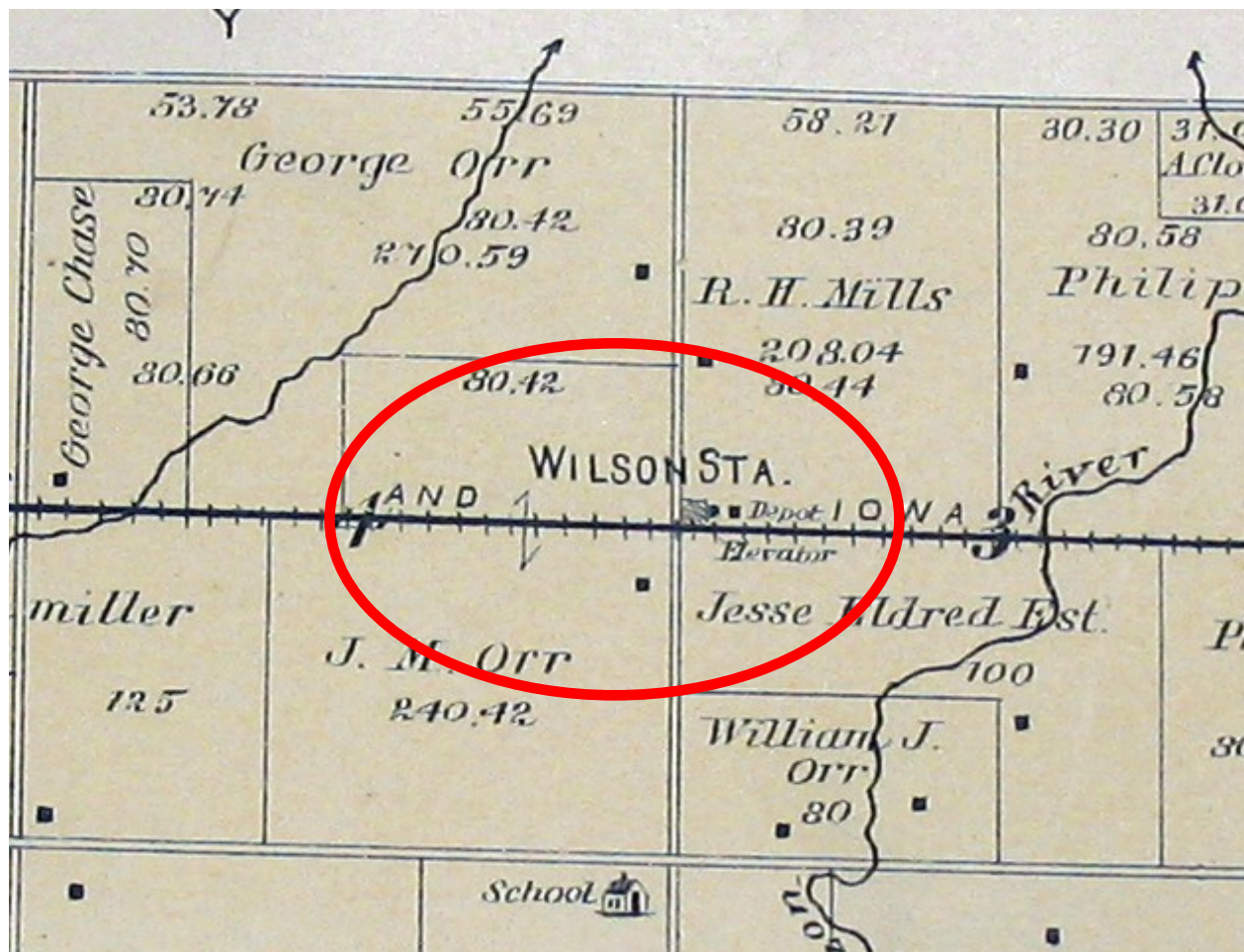
No references to specific village. Post Office was likely in a house and a Township post office.

Wilson – Post Office – 1883-1905



From 1893
Atlas

Wilson – Post Office – 1883-1905



On the 3-I
Railroad

No mention in 1878
or 1909 Vol. 2
History Books.

Also sometimes
called Blair.



Windtown – Post Office – None

- From the 1878 history book....Nebraska Township
- The other post office referred to is on Section 19, at the "corners," where the Lutheran school house and church stand.
- As a wind-mill had been built here about the first of any building, the "corners" took the suggestive name of Windtown, which appellation, like many another Western name, clings tenaciously, and probably always will, to the embryo village.
- A store was built here in 1872, by Herman Schmidt, who sold in 1875, to John Linnemann, the present proprietor.
- The post office is kept in this store, and is very convenient to the surrounding neighborhood.



Windtown – Post Office – None

- From the 1878 history book....Nebraska Township
- This place, like Zookville and all small villages, has its blacksmith shop and sinewy blacksmith, who made his appearance with the start of Windtown, and since then you can.....
 - Hear him swing his heavy sledge, With measured beat and slow.
- The Lutheran school, the common school of this district, the store, the blacksmith shop and a few dwellings comprise the" corners" at Windtown.

Windtown – Post Office – None

- From the 1878 history book....Nebraska Township
- To supply the deficiency of water-mills in the township, and make the item of milling more convenient, about 1869 a wind-mill was built on the farm of Geo. Sauer.
- It remained in running order and was a "thing" of great convenience to the residents of this locality, until its removal in 1872, to Gridley, McLean County.



Windtown – Post Office – None



Windtown – Post Office – None



Windtown – Post Office – None





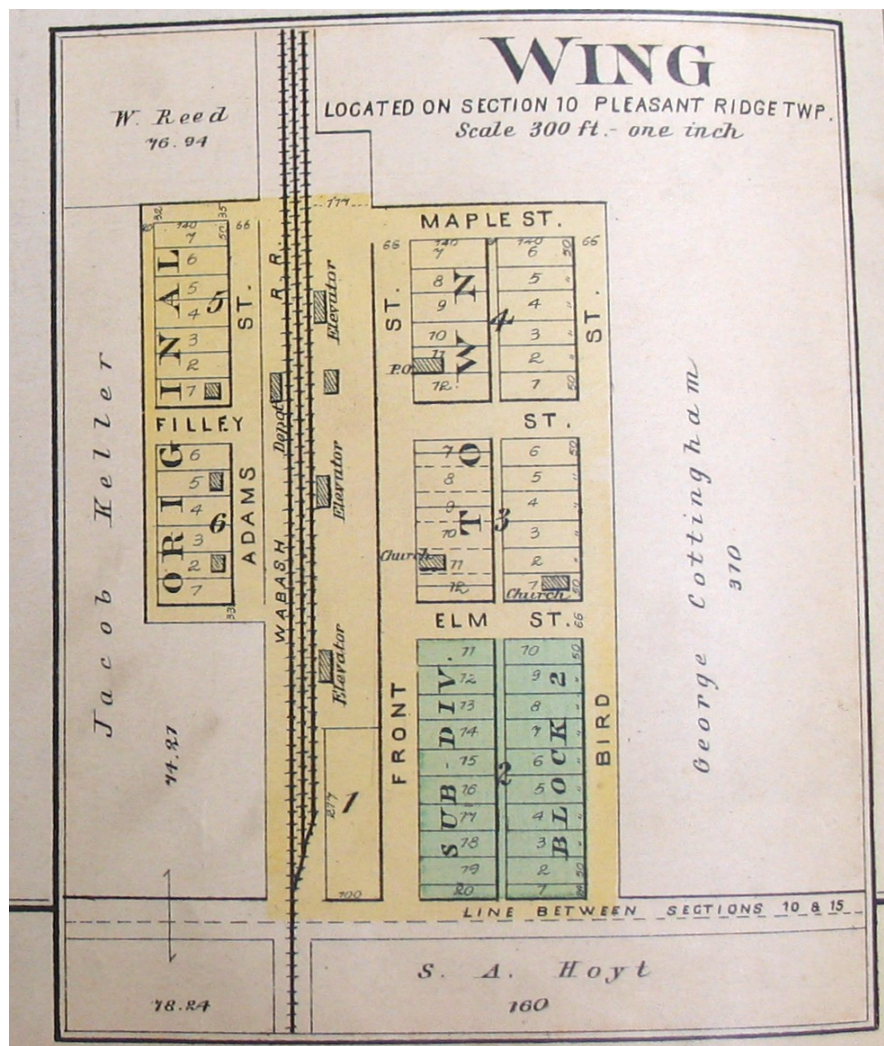
Wing – Post Office – 1881-DPO

- From 1909 Vol. 2 history book.....

VILLAGE OF WING.

- Wing is located on the Wabash road, midway between Forrest and Saunemin.
- It was laid out in May, 1880, in the southwest quarter of section 10, on the land owned by Elijah Filley and Jacob Keller.
- The depot was erected on Filley's land.
- The sum of \$1,000 was raised by subscription among the farmers and land owners of the township, which upon completion of the station house and 1,500 feet of sidetrack, was paid by the railroad company.
- The village has a population of about 200. It has three general stores, two blacksmith shops, lumber yard, and three grain elevators. It is one of the best grain points in the county.
- A two-room brick school house was erected several years ago.
- Two churches are located here: Methodist and United Brethren. Both edifices are frame structures.
- James Gibb Is the present postmaster.

Wing – Post Office – 1881-DPO



From 1893
Atlas

Yorkville – Post Office – 1876-1879

	ter.....N. Y	Yot
Wis	Yorktown, De Witt....Tex	Yot
.....	Yorktown (c. h.), York..Va	Yot
Tenn	Yorkville, Mendocino..Cal	Yot
nt...	Yorkville, Fremont...Colo	C
Tenn	Yorkville, Paulding....Ga	Yot
gs,	Yorkville (c. h.), Ken-	Yot
..Va	dall.....Ill	Yot
on...	Yorkville, Dearborn...Ind	es
Ark	Yorkville, Kalamazoo.Mich	Yot
Nash	Yorkville, Bladen.....N. C	Yps
Ohio	Yorkville (c. h.), York.S. C	Yre
..Ky	Yorkville, Gibson....Tenn	Yre
..S. C	Yorkville, Racine.....Wis	Ysl
..Ky	Yorkville Station,*	Yul
..Pa	New York.....N. Y	Yul
..Cal	Yo Semite, Mariposa....Cal	Yul
-	Yostville, Luzerne.....Pa	Yuc
..Pa	You Bet, Nevada.....Cal	Yuc
..Va	Young, Onondaga.....N. Y	
Cal	Young America, Cass Ind	

The 1878 book List of Post Offices does not have a Yorkville in Livingston County.

Must be error in web site database.



Zookville – Post Office – None

- From 1878 history book.....Nebraska Township
- Two post offices are established in the township-one on Section 10., in a store kept by Seymour Thomas.
- At this place another store is also kept by Mr. Patten.
- The" corners" are generally known as Zookville, from Mr. B. Zook, who opened the first store here in 1872. . About three years after, he sold to the present owner
- Another store was started in 1876, by John McCarty, who soon after sold to Mr. Patton, the present owner.
- A blacksmith shop always appears with every "corners," and Zookville was not long until Week in, week out, from morn till night....You could hear his bellows blow...and from that time, we believe, the words of the poet have been verified.